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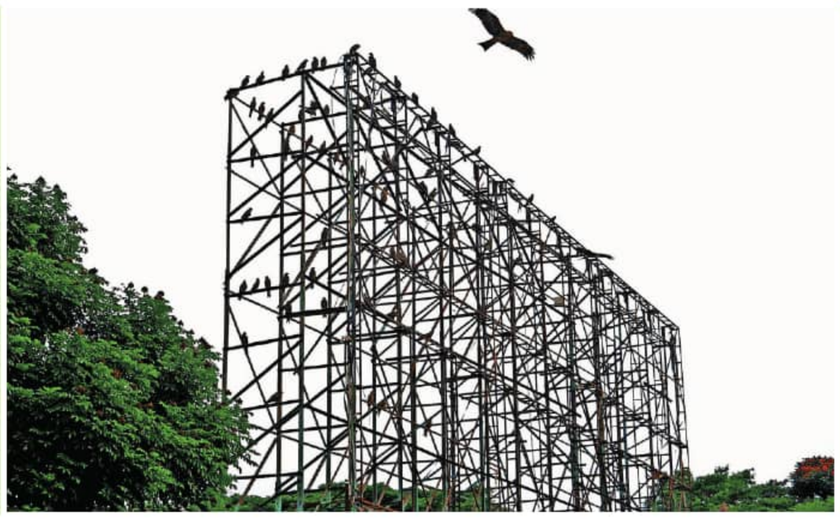
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 17 | Humidity 60% Partly sunny Sensex 84,572 | Nifty 25,910 | Gold 1,24,851 | Silver 1,59,366 | Dollar 88.61 | Euro 102.58 | GBP 116.12

USE YOUR HEAD

Riders wearing sub-standard, non-ISI helmets keep getting fined as motorists throw out safety concerns to save every penny

PAGE 3



KILL BILL

City's iconic corridors from Cubbon Park's leafy stretches to Kumara Krupa Road's diplomatic belt set to become billboard-free

PAGE 5

As India's new data rules kick in, we speak to Bengalureans to understand how they feel and realise that most welcome the news with fair amount of caution as they wait to see how strictly rules are implemented

PRIVATE MATTER

Govt depts must also be held to same standards as private companies, say citizens

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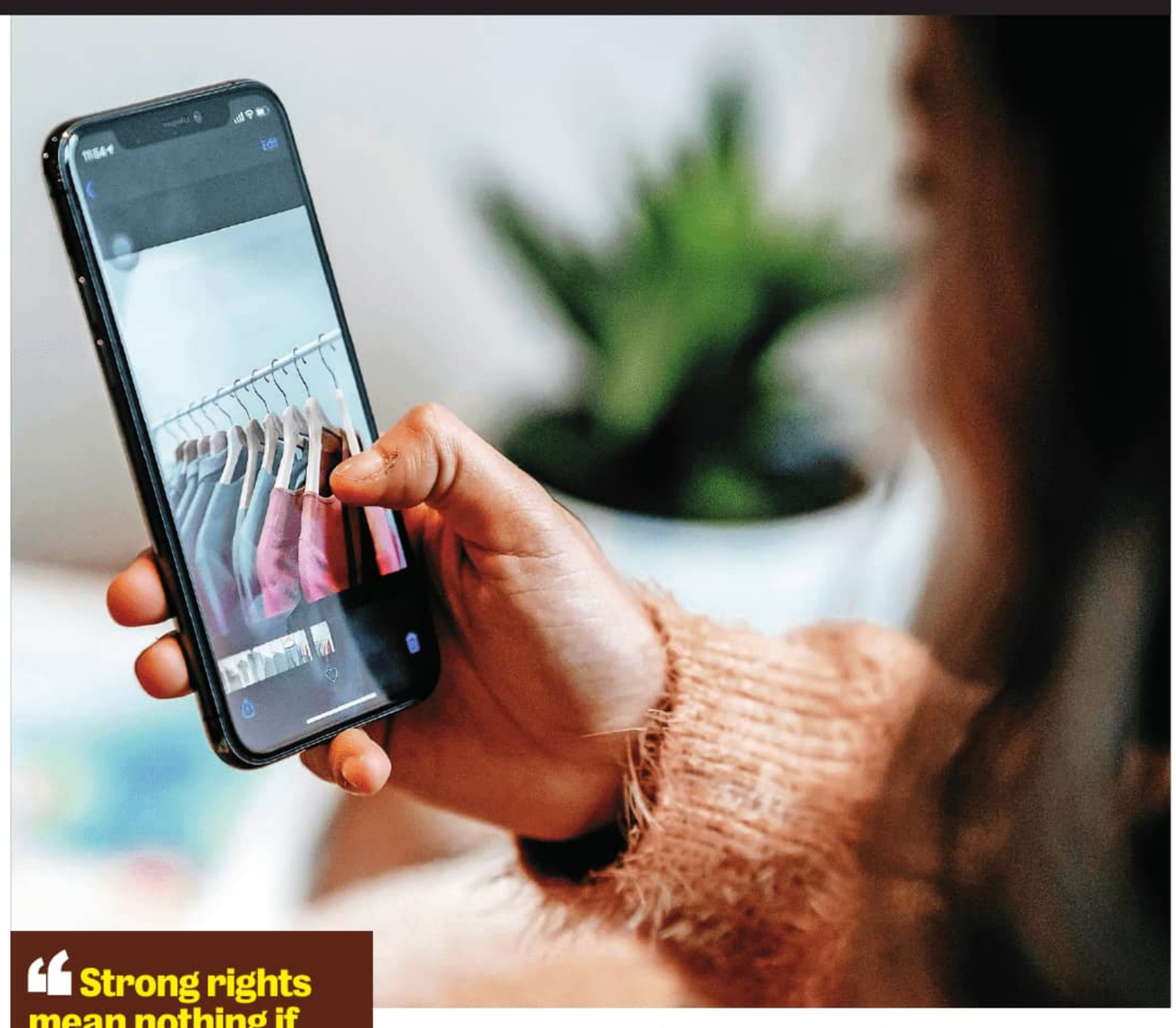

Bengalureans responded with a mix of relief, urgency and guarded optimism as the Centre notified the rules to operationalise the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act — India's first full-fledged digital privacy law. Many city residents said the notification feels "long overdue in a country where companies and apps have treated user data like free real estate". They argue that the move marks a significant shift in how personal information will be handled, even as they brace for challenges in enforcement.

The newly notified rules lay out the mechanics of how personal data must be collected, stored, processed and deleted, placing consent at the core and mandating clear disclosures to users. They also require organisations to report breaches within fixed timelines and introduce a 12–18 month phased rollout, including the identification of 'Significant Data Fiduciaries' who face more stringent audits, impact assessments and accountability measures.

> "Strong rights mean nothing if enforcement is slow or toothless. We've seen too many breaches go unpunished
> —Software engineer

Hope and doubt

Across tech parks, co-working spaces and residential neighbourhoods, the dominant sentiment was cautious welcome. Several Bengalureans said the rules "finally give people a sense of control that never existed before". A resident of Electronic City noted, "For years, apps grabbed everything — contacts, location, photos — without explaining anything. At least now we can demand to know exactly what's being taken

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Restless rains

Minimum temperature in city above normal on over 40% of days this monsoon

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During the monsoon months of June to September 2025, the minimum temperature in Bengaluru remained above normal on more than 40% of the days.

Out of the 121 days, 52 days recorded this anomaly, while eight days had temperatures lower than normal.

This has been highlighted in an assessment of extreme weather events conducted this year by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based NGO. Experts say the rise in temperature during the monsoon is particularly concerning, as it disrupts the core dynamics of the monsoon system. This can trigger erratic and extreme weather events — from floods to droughts — while threatening agriculture, food security, and public health.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the first 12 days in November have been warmer than normal for Bengaluru. However, the latter part of the month is likely to see cooler, cloudy days as the North East Monsoon becomes more active.

The CSE assessment has also found that Karnataka has witnessed an increase in the number of days with extreme weather events in the first nine months of this year (January to September).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Comic fiesta

Celebrate self-expression through comics at this volunteer-run, not-for-profit festival. Explore indie comics, meet artists, and enjoy workshops. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Center, MG Road; When: Nov 16, 10 am to 7 pm**

02 Walk together

Podar Prep Plus, in association with Criya Hospital, is organising a "Little Steps Big Hearts" parent and child walkathon. The fun-filled walk aims to promote child safety, anti-bullying, and overall well-being. **Where: From Podar Prep, Puttenahalli; When: Nov 16, 7:30 am to 9:30 am**

03 Creative beats

Join Roberto Narain & Vasundhara Das for an evening of rhythm, music, and fun. Instruments provided or bring your own, **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Center, MG Road; When: November 16, 4 pm to 6 pm**

04 Glam fest

Nexus Malls bring the third edition of their beauty festival, featuring top brands like Nykaa, The Body Shop, Mama Earth, Toni & Guy, and more. Discover the latest in makeup, skincare, haircare, and fragrances, enjoy live demos, expert tips, interactive makeover zones, and exclusive offers including 2X reward points and "Shop & Win" prizes. **Where: Nexus Koramangala, Shantiniketan, Whitefield & Vega City Malls; When: Until November 30**

05 Family fun

South India's biggest family play festival returns to Bengaluru. Experience games, workshops, puppet shows, magic acts, and interactive zones designed for children and parents. Highlights include the Mom & Me Fashion Show and Dad & Me Fun Run, celebrating creativity and family bonding. **Where: National College Grounds, Basavanagudi; When: November 16**

BU campus trees issue now reaches High Court

Constructions threaten 419 mature trees in the city's green lung, warn environmentalists

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FILE PHOTO

A city-based not-for-profit organisation has filed a PIL in the High Court for the protection and preservation of the Biopark and the adjoining forest areas situated within the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University.

In the litigation, Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust has highlighted that the Jnanabharathi campus is facing an imminent ecological threat due to the large-scale diversion of its forest lands for multiple construction projects, including the PM-USHA Project, Ambedkar Theme Park, the proposed UVCE new campus, and buildings for external institutions such as the Council of Architecture.

These activities involve the felling of hundreds of mature trees in designated green zones like Bio-Reserve Park-2, where approximately 419 trees, and possibly more, are proposed to be cut.

The NGO, in the petition, has noted that Bangalore University has sought permission to fell trees in the BR-2 area measuring about 6.5 acres to implement the PM-USHA project funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC). This action threatens an ecologically evolved area that cannot naturally regenerate once destroyed. The Biopark produces oxygen valued at several thousand crores annually and recharges nearly 25,000 crore litres of groundwater each monsoon, the PIL has stated.

"All this despite deliberations by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, which held a special meeting on 26 June 2025 and recommended that the Jnanabharathi Campus be declared a biodiversity heritage site. However, no further steps have been taken to issue a formal notification. The inaction of the authorities has left the area vulnerable to fragmentation and deforestation," Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust has stated.

Proposed construction, including the PM-USHA scheme and UVCE expansion, could destroy critical carbon sinks and groundwater reserves

Notably, after a complaint was filed by Jnanabharathi Vayuvihargala Sangha, a group of city-based environmentalists and conservationists, last year, the Governor of Karnataka directed Bangalore University to submit a report on the allotment of forest land to UVCE. A committee was constituted in September 2024, comprising senior faculty members and the Biopark coordinator, to scientifically examine the ecological impact of such allotments. The committee's report reaffirmed that the area was a bio-reserve forest.

The petition also underlines a study conducted by the Department of Environmental Science, Bangalore University. In the study, researchers estimated carbon assimilation within the Jnanabharathi vegetation to average 200.9 tonnes per hectare, indicating the immense carbon sequestration potential of the Biopark. Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust says that felling such trees would severely diminish Bengaluru's carbon sink capacity and accelerate urban heat island effects.

The Biopark in question, consisting of 16 designated ecological zones such as medicinal, bamboo, butterfly, and fruit tree gardens, has been nurtured through the efforts of students, faculty, and environmental volunteers since its inception.

State bids farewell to tree mother

Padma Shri recipient 'Saalumarada' Thimmakka was laid to rest with full state honours on Saturday. The 114-year-old environmentalist, known as 'Vruksha Maate' (Mother of Trees), passed away in a private hospital on Friday due to age-related ailments. Born on June 30, 1911, Thimmakka earned the name 'Saalumarada' after planting 385 banyan trees along the 4.5 km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur in Ramanagara district, headquartered in Bengaluru South. With no formal education, she began the plantation campaign, treating the trees as her children to fill the void in her life as a childless woman.

Her last rites were performed according to the Lingayat tradition at Kalagrama in the Jnana

Bharathi campus, Bengaluru. Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, and several MLAs attended. "An award will be instituted in her name," Khandre said, adding that the state had lost a devoted guardian of the environment who inspired thousands.

He noted hundreds continue to plant and care for saplings, drawing inspiration from her work. "As a tribute, 114 saplings will be planted across Karnataka, symbolising each year of her life," he said, recalling that the forest department had honoured her as an 'Environment Ambassador'. Khandre said 'Vruksha Maate' Thimmakka set an example by caring for trees with maternal affection and spreading the message of conservation worldwide.

— BMB

Thousands stride against diabetes

Medicover Hospital organised a large-scale Diabetes Awareness Walkathon today, bringing together more than 1,000 participants, including students from SEA College (KR Puram) and Nallapadu Bellahalli College. The event was flagged off by television actress Bhavya Gowda. Doctors Dr Raja Selvarajan, Dr Shruthi R, and Dr Samarpita Dutta Choudhury actively took part, stressing the need for early screening and healthy lifestyle practices. Unit Head Mr Krishnamurthy also joined the walkathon, extending his full support to the public health initiative.

Bands, beats and fun at Equinox

Equinox, the inter-college cultural fest themed "Aeterum," united city campuses at St Joseph's Pre-University College, drawing around 6,000 students. The day-long event celebrated music, dance, literature, and arts, emphasising collaboration. Renowned singer Manasa Holla attended as chief guest, with the Leadership Team inaugurating the fest and releasing the annual newsletter, "Legatum." The theme honoured enduring cultural values while encouraging experimentation. Participants competed in 42 events, including "Clash of Councils," dance categories, "Battle of the Bands," literary contests, visual arts, and singing performances. DJ Martin D'Souza closed the night. Equinox fostered camaraderie, showcased talent, and left audiences anticipating next year's edition. — BMB

Laser miracle for 'untreatable' hearts

With the new laser angioplasty facility at Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, patients with hardened, calcified, or complex blockages now have a minimally invasive alternative to bypass surgery. Dr Keshava R, HOD & Consultant – Interventional Cardiology, says the technique treats multiple stents, severe atherosclerosis, and intricate arterial narrowing without opening the chest, offering hope to those unsuitable for conventional angioplasty. Laser angioplasty uses controlled light energy to vaporise calcified deposits, clearing arteries with precision while minimising stress. This ensures smoother blood flow, lowers risks, and shortens recovery and hospital stay. Dr H Sudarshan Ballal calls it a medical boon for complex heart disease. — BMB

IPL 2026: RCB release Livingstone, Ngidi

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru have parted ways with England all-rounder Liam Livingstone, their only significant overseas release ahead of the IPL 2026 auction, scheduled to take place on December 16. Apart from Livingstone, South Africa's versatile speedster Lungi Ngidi, who primarily featured as a reserve, has been let go. New Zealand power hitter Tim Seifert and Zimbabwe speedster Blessing Muzarabani are the other two overseas players who have left the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Yash Dayal, who spearheaded RCB's attack with his left-arm pace deliveries, has been retained for the 19th edition of the cash-rich league. — ANI

All buses to have emergency exit doors

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New rule demands proper bus emergency doors statewide, ensuring safer escape route for seniors, children and women

Worried that the breakable glass panels used as emergency exits in newer buses make evacuation difficult, especially for senior citizens, children and women, the Karnataka government has stepped in with stricter safety norms. The state has now mandated proper emergency exit doors in all buses operated by its four transport corporations, replacing the current glass-only system that is unsafe during crises. The directive follows growing concerns over passenger safety after recent fire incidents involving long-distance buses.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday declared that all buses operating in Karnataka must now have mandatory emergency exit doors. The decision was taken during a review meeting with senior transport department officials. Citing the bus fire in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, that claimed 20 lives on October 24, the minister said buses will not be permitted to renew their registration or fitness certificates unless they are fitted with an emergency exit door. He added that a circular to enforce the rule will be issued shortly.

Reddy told BM that although emergency doors were previously mandatory, many new buses opted to remove them because two seats had to be sacrificed to accommodate the door. As a result, manufacturers began designating window panels located nearly eight feet above the ground as emergency exit points. "In such cases, senior citizens, children, and women cannot easily jump from that height during an emergency, making evacuation extremely difficult," he said.

Reddy added that while most buses in Bengaluru are equipped with double doors and older long-route buses were built with dedicated emergency exit doors. During the review meeting, Reddy directed daily inspections of public service vehicles arriving from other states. Vehicles found without emergency exit doors are to be seized, their fitness certificates suspended, and the respective original registration authorities notified for further action. The minister instructed officials to ensure that a separate, fully functional emergency door is installed before approving registration or renewing fitness certificates. "We cannot stop buses immediately, so we have given instructions," he said.

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Helmet horror: 1,700 violations a day expose city's safety crisis

Bengaluru sees thousands of daily challans as commuters ignore ISI standards, favouring low-cost helmets despite safety warnings

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PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Riders caught with fake helmets as violations soar daily

Traffic police warn substandard, non-ISI helmets endanger riders and pillion passengers alike. Awareness campaigns continue, yet convenience and cost drive persistent violations, keeping daily challan numbers consistently high across the city

Riding without a helmet is only one aspect of helmet-related violations. Many challans are also issued for using substandard or non-ISI-certified helmets. Bengaluru Traffic Police data show that 19% of all challans issued are for riders not wearing helmets, while 9% involve pillion riders without helmets. The Violation Challan Analytics dashboard reveals that, on average, over 1,500 challans are booked daily for this single offence.

Bengaluru Traffic Police data show that 15,85,385 cases were booked against riders for not wearing helmets, while 8,71,346 cases involved pillion riders travelling without helmets until the end of October. What is more concerning, traffic officers say, is the rise in cases involving low-quality helmets available for cheap prices on roadside stalls or online platforms. These helmets, which do not meet ISI safety standards, are often made of fragile materials that can crack easily upon impact. "People think that wearing anything that looks like a helmet will help them avoid fines, but these substandard products are as good as wearing no helmet," a senior traffic police officer said.

The city's Violation Challan Analytics dashboard also reveals the scale of enforcement. On average, 1,734 challans are issued every day for helmet-related violations alone, comprising 1,191 challans issued to riders and 543 to pillion riders. Police officials say this consistent number highlights both the enforcement drives and the persistent non-compliance among commuters. Despite campaigns, including awareness initiatives to explain the life-saving potential of quality helmets, violation numbers have remained steady. "Many individuals in the age group of 40 to 60 even claim that they did not know that wearing such helmets would be a violation," says a senior traffic police official.

Traffic officials note that Bengaluru, with its dense traffic and high two-wheeler population, is especially vulnerable to fatal head injuries in road accidents. Helmet usage, especially certified full-face helmets, significantly reduces the risk of death or severe injury. Yet, many riders continue to ignore these risks for convenience or due to the misconception that short-distance rides do not require safety gear.

"Many youngsters admit they avoid wearing helmets because they believe it will ruin their hairstyle, while others say they do not prioritise buying one since pillion riders are often travelling only short distances; they are just stepping out for quick household work, only a few hundred metres away. Many people opt for substandard, non-ISI helmets merely to escape police fines rather than for genuine safety. Others cite reasons such as the lower cost and the discomfort they associate with certified, good-quality helmets," says a senior traffic officer. Non-ISI-marked helmets are significantly cheaper, often costing around 400– 600, while quality ISI-marked helmets range from 1,500 to 3,000 or more. For many, the cheaper option serves primarily to avoid a fine.

Many road accidents in recent years have involved severe injuries to pillion riders, prompting authorities to treat the violation on par with that of the rider. Several Indian High Courts and the Supreme Court have emphasised that substandard helmets are unsafe and that only Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-certified (ISI-marked) helmets should be used. "Many people think accidents won't happen to them; they have this prevalent attitude of overconfidence, especially when they travel short distances or ride in slow city traffic. Some believe they are skilled riders and that nothing will go wrong, or that any accident would not be their fault. What they fail to understand is that accidents occur in a matter of seconds," a senior traffic police officer said.

Even though, in the last five years, helmet-related violations have dropped by more than 70%, traffic officials say the department will continue strict enforcement, coupled with public awareness campaigns, to curb violations. They emphasise that helmets are not just about avoiding fines but about protecting lives.

8,000L fake Nandini ghee seized

The CCB Special Investigation Squad, along with the KMF Vigilance Wing, has uncovered a major racket selling adulterated ghee in fake Nandini packaging across Bengaluru. Four suspects have been arrested, and 8,136 litres of adulterated ghee worth ₹1.26 crore were seized. The group had set up an adulteration unit in Tamil Nadu, where they mixed coconut and palm oils to produce fake ghee, packed it in imitation Nandini sachets and bottles, and supplied it to Bengaluru. A coordinated raid on November 14 at Krishna Enterprises in Chamarajpet intercepted a vehicle carrying the fake ghee. Officials also seized four Bolero goods vehicles, five phones, ₹1.19 lakh in cash, cans of oils, and production machinery. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Bizman held in actress assault case

Bengaluru police have arrested Arvind Reddy, founder of the AVR Group, for allegedly harassing and assaulting a Kannada film actress. ACP Chandan's team detained him when he arrived from Sri Lanka, following an FIR filed last month. The actress, who has acted in over nine films, met Reddy in 2021 and grew closer to him in 2022. She alleges he abruptly cut contact, then returned with changed behaviour, and that she later learned of his mental health and alcohol issues. In 2024, he reportedly said he wanted to marry her. Distressed, she attempted suicide and was taken to hospital by him. She accuses Reddy of assault, tearing her clothes, issuing threats, and demanding money. Police are investigating. **–BMB**

Tech support con: 21 arrested

Police arrested 21 people after the Cyber Command Special Cell and Whitefield Cyber Crime Police busted a fake tech-support racket in Bengaluru. The gang operated from Musk Communications, a 4,500 sq ft office in the Delta Building, Sigma Soft Tech Park, posing as Microsoft Technical Support to cheat US citizens. Raids on November 14 and 15 uncovered illegal operations, computer systems, and digital workstations. A minor witness said recruits were trained to impersonate officials, hack devices, steal data, and extort victims. Several devices were seized, and efforts are on to trace other suspects. **–BMB**

Toxic traces rising silently: Is your groundwater safe?

Rising fluoride, nitrate, contaminant levels posing growing groundwater safety concerns, prompting urgent monitoring efforts and demanding stronger action from authorities amid worsening quality indicators

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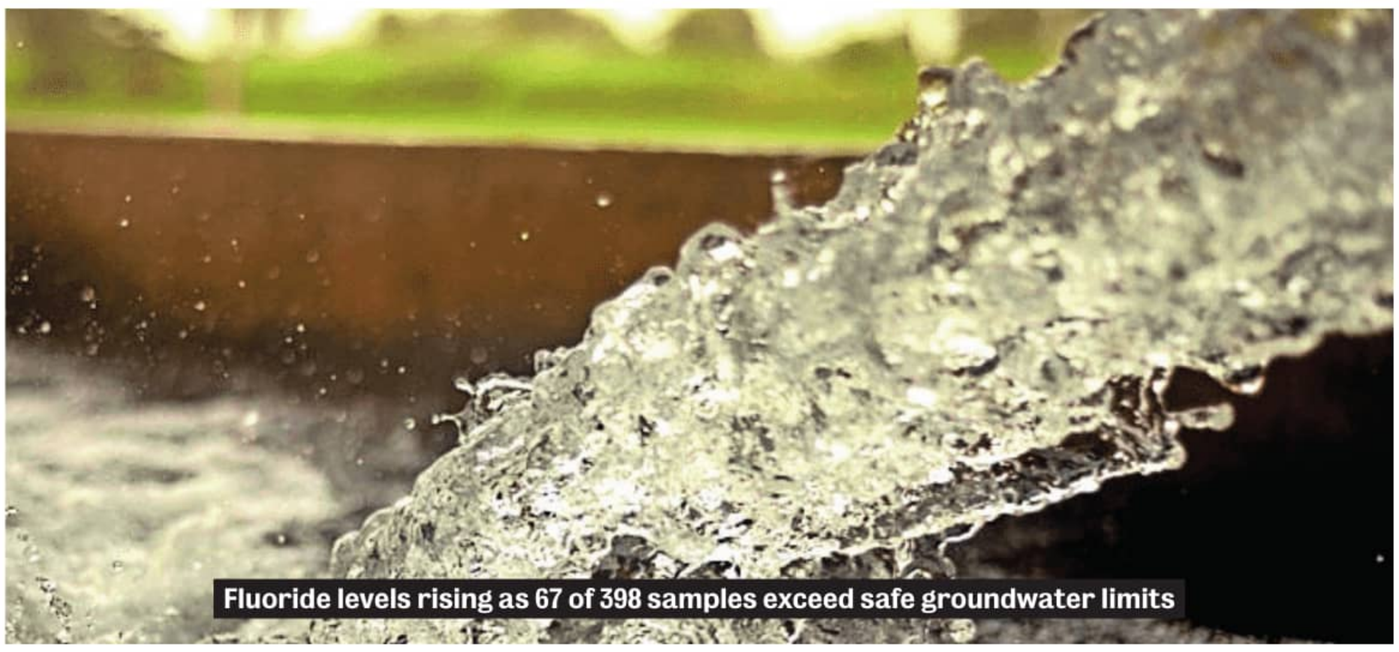

Fluoride levels rising as 67 of 398 samples exceed safe groundwater limits

Residents of Kithaganur and thousands of motorists were shocked when authorities suddenly took up asphalting work on the PWD Road that connects Kithaganur to the Outer Ring Road. While residents are not opposed to the road being asphalted, they are strongly against the authorities going ahead without completing the formalities required to acquire the necessary land. According to the original plan, the road should have a width of 80 feet, but at present, most stretches of the 2-km stretch measure only about 30 feet.

"Karnataka's groundwater, a vital resource, is increasingly polluted, as highlighted in the recent groundwater quality report by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). For the 2025 report, the CGWB collected 398 samples across the state to assess groundwater quality and found that 60 samples (15.08 percent) did not comply with BIS standards, exceeding permissible limits for one or more parameters. Fluoride and nitrate contamination were found to be widespread.

Fluoride contamination in Karnataka is rising, with 67 out of 398 samples (16.83 percent) tested showing fluoride concentrations exceeding 1.5 mg/L, the permissible limit for this heavy metal in groundwater. This percentage is significantly higher than the national average of 8.05 percent of samples with fluoride levels above 1.5 mg/L. According to CGWB, the persistence of high fluoride levels in Karnataka is primarily geogenic and less influenced by seasonal recharge. The report notes that hydrogeological and climatic conditions contribute to elevated fluoride levels, as high concentrations are commonly associated with crystalline and hard-rock aquifers, such as granite and gneissic formations, where prolonged water–rock interaction leads to the dissolution of fluoride-bearing minerals.

According to the report, these areas correspond largely to alluvial and hard-rock aquifers, where intensive agricultural practices, excessive fertilizer use, and improper disposal of domestic and animal waste contribute to nitrate enrichment

The post-monsoon water quality analysis showed a slight reduction in the density of high-fluoride locations in certain parts of northern Karnataka, possibly due to dilution from rainfall recharge. Experts say that safeguarding drinking water quality in fluoride-affected regions requires a combination of source selection, blending, treatment, and community awareness. High-yielding wells with naturally low fluoride concentrations should be identified and prioritized for drinking water supply in areas dependent on fluoride-rich wells. Where feasible, blending water from high-fluoride sources with low-fluoride water may help achieve permissible concentrations.

Along with fluoride, groundwater in Karnataka also showed high nitrate concentrations. Of the 398 samples tested, 181 samples had nitrate levels exceeding the permissible limit. According to the report, these areas correspond largely to alluvial and hard-rock aquifers, where intensive agricultural practices, excessive fertilizer use, and improper disposal of domestic and animal waste contribute to nitrate enrichment.

Minor occurrences of arsenic were detected in two samples. High levels of uranium (more than 30 bbp) were found in 10 out of the 118 samples studied, and persistent exceedance of manganese was also reported. Despite these concerns, about 84.92 percent of the samples tested were within prescribed limits for all parameters.

City to spend big daily on mechanised sweeping

The Bengaluru is set to spend ₹24.33 lakh per day to keep 1,688 km of main and sub-main roads clean, following the State Cabinet's approval of a ₹613.25-crore, seven-year mechanised sweeping project. The plan, which relies entirely on 59 rented mechanical sweeping machines, will cost the city nearly ₹900 per km of road cleaned. The scale of expenditure has triggered debate among planners and civic experts, who question whether Bengaluru is paying an unusually high premium for routine sanitation.

Zone-wise burden

Under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), five municipal corporations will bear the cost individually. The West zone faces the highest financial load, responsible for cleaning 1,090 km, followed by the North (1,034 km), East (870 km), South (894 km), and Central (832 km). The machines will cover a total of 4,720 km across all zones, with per-kilometre rental rates ranging from ₹894 to ₹1,432.

Government rationale

Law Minister H K Patil said the project aims to improve air quality, citizen health, and road hygiene through fully mechanised cleaning. He added that rising pollution levels and shifting climate conditions make machine-based sweeping a critical urban intervention. The GBA has been instructed to float tenders in five separate packages, one for each corporation.

Technical concerns

Despite Cabinet approval, a technical committee has expressed concerns over the methodology used to fix rental rates. The panel found that estimates were based on informal quotes from only two companies, with no comparison to similar models used in other Indian cities. The committee, led by KUWSDB Managing Director Selvamani, warned that monitoring rented machinery would be operationally difficult and advised that rental should be considered only if purchasing machines outright was financially impossible. — BMB

GBA speeds up large-scale road projects

Under the ongoing white-topping initiative, the BBMP has taken up 140 roads spanning 220.68 km across the city at a cost of ₹1,700 crore, divided into 17 project packages. Of this, 79.08 km across 39 roads have been completed, while 141.59 km covering 101 roads remain in progress.

GBA Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said asphalt road works worth ₹694 crore under the Brand Bengaluru 2024–25 plan is also advancing, covering 386.5 km across 26 tendered packages, with 44% physical progress achieved. Under the Suraksha 75 junction-improvement project, ₹100 crore has been allocated for 75 junctions, with 40% of work completed. As of November 7, 2025, a total of 17,924 potholes have been reported across all city zones, with the highest numbers reported in Bengaluru East (2,613) and Bengaluru North (2,077), he added. — BMB

Locals protest two-decade neglect

Residents of Electronics City Phase-2 will stage a protest on the 29th, backed by local schools and businesses, demanding long-delayed infrastructure upgrades. Despite repeated appeals, basic issues along the key 2063 corridor remain unresolved. For years, crumbling roads and monsoon disruptions have made short commutes exhausting, forcing residents to protest as frustration grows across the affected neighbourhoods today. — BMB

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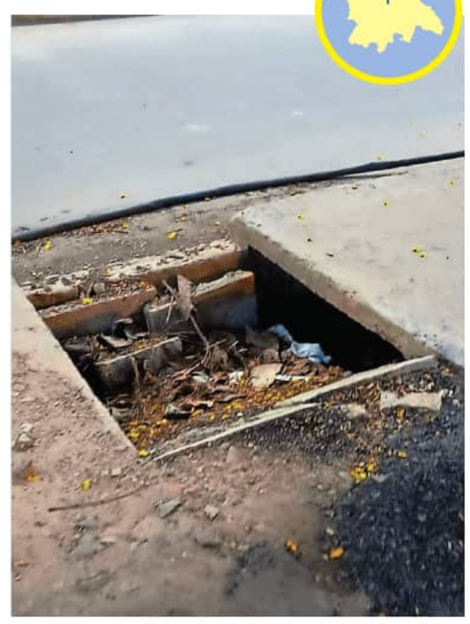
Risky stretch

BTM Layout



Broken, risky service road near BTM Metro Station Entry A endangers commuters daily.

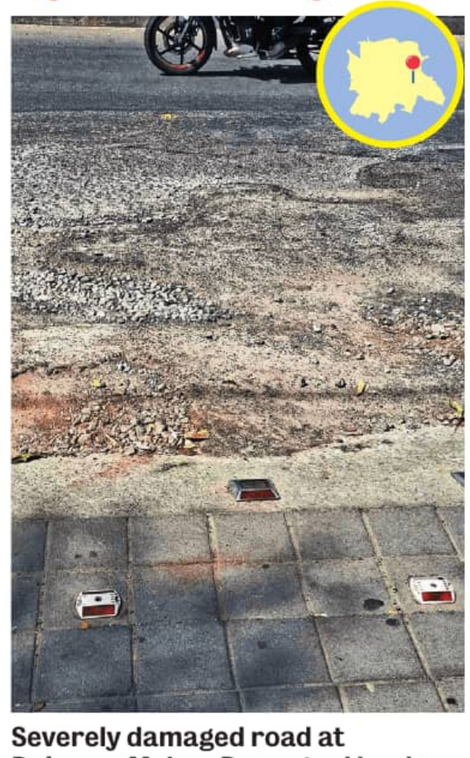
Garbage mess

Old Madras Road

Old Madras Road from a factory to KR Puram is littered with posters and garbage, with no regular cleaning.

Road danger

Rajaram Mohan Roy Road



Severely damaged road at Rajaram Mohan Roy petrol bunk junction injures motorists amid heavy traffic.

Colonial-era stone postbox showcases rare craftsmanship

Forgotten stone postbox becomes Bengaluru's timeless relic

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Amid the rush of modernity, a slice of Bengaluru's forgotten past stands quietly on Old Kasai Road in Ragipet — a rare, century-old postbox carved entirely out of stone. Believed to be the only functioning stone postbox in the city, and possibly in India, it has withstood time, weather, and rapid urban change.

Unlike the familiar red metal boxes across Bengaluru, this postbox showcases colonial-era craftsmanship and durability. City chronicler and heritage enthusiast N J Ravi Chander, who recently rediscovered it during a walk in the KR Market area, described it as "a piece of living history — incredibly sturdy and unshakeable even after a hundred years."

Locals say it still collects neighbourhood mail, quietly continuing its original purpose. A nearby shopkeeper said, "We've seen it since childhood. It's always been there."

Heritage experts hope it receives official recognition. Conservationists argue that the structure deserves protection, calling it a rare urban relic. As Bengaluru speeds toward digital communication, this humble stone postbox remains a steadfast witness — a small but enduring marker of the city's layered history.

New ad rules promise cleaner, clear, calmer city corridors

Updated advertising rules protect city core, restrict hoardings, improve visual standards, promote expansion, ensure balanced revenue, civic transparency

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Bengaluru's most iconic corridors—from Cubbon Park's leafy stretches to Kumara Krupa Road's diplomatic belt—are set to remain completely billboard-free under the Greater Bengaluru Authority's freshly proposed outdoor advertising rules. Even as the state moves to lift the seven-year ban on hoardings, the draft framework draws clear boundaries, signalling that commercial signage may return, but not at the cost of the city's heritage and visual identity. As one senior civic official remarked, "We're reopening advertising, but the city's core remains non-negotiable."

Heritage corridors like Nrupathunga Road and Maharani College Road remain strict no-ad zones

Draft introduces a fee matrix linked to guideline values, ranging from 45% to 75%. Advertising revenue from metro assets will be shared equally between BMRCL and the five municipal bodies

Where ads will now be permitted

The draft permits hoardings on building rooftops, land parcels, kiosks, neon signs and approved commercial spaces. Permissions will apply only to roads of certain widths, with size limits defined as:

- **1,000** sq ft on 18–24 m roads
- **1,200** sq ft on 24–30 m roads
- **1,500** sq ft on 30–60 m roads
- **1,600** sq ft on roads above 60 m
- Up to **3,000** sq ft at major circles

City stretches shielded

The draft "Greater Bengaluru Region (Advertisement) Rules" lists several zones where commercial advertising will continue to be prohibited. These include Kumara Krupa Road (Windsor Manor Junction to Shivananda Circle), Sankey Road (High Grounds to Windsor Heritage Signal), Ambedkar Veedhi (K R Circle to Infantry Road Junction), Post Office Road (K R Circle to Mysore Bank Circle), Palace Road up to Chalukya Circle, and Bengaluru's prized green spaces at Cubbon Park and Lalbagh. Heritage corridors such as Nrupathunga Road and Maharani College Road also remain no-ad stretches. Strict buffers—25 metres from religious institutions and 100 metres from their access roads—further tighten restrictions. No ads will be permitted near flyovers, railway overpasses, mobile towers, water installations, transmission towers, sharp curves, major junctions, national parks or water bodies. An urban planner familiar with the draft said, "The city has learnt from its past visual clutter. This framework protects the places that define Bengaluru."

Regulation over ban

After dividing BBMP into five municipal bodies under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, the state has moved to replace the absolute ban enforced by the 2018 by-law with a clearly regulated system. Officials describe the shift as a practical necessity. "Hoardings generate revenue—and banning them entirely was never a long-term solution," a civic officer said. "The new rules are a course correction, not a free-for-all." Metro pillars, stations and related infrastructure may also host ads, subject to civic approval. Advertisements on private commercial properties will fall under the same licensing system.

Content rules retained

Ads depicting nudity, sexually suggestive themes, violence or exploitative portrayals of women, children or communities will remain banned citywide. "Content guidelines will be strictly enforced. We are not compromising on dignity or public sensibilities," a government source said.

Fees and revenue

The draft introduces a fee matrix linked to guideline values, ranging from 45% to 75%. Advertising revenue from metro assets will be shared equally between BMRCL and the five municipal bodies. Only licensed advertisers will be permitted to bid for spaces, ensuring transparency and compliance. The proposed policy represents Bengaluru's effort to reintroduce outdoor advertising without repeating earlier disorder. "This is not about flooding the skyline," said a civic engineer. "It's about allowing what is safe, regulated and respectful of the city's fabric." With objections invited, debate is expected to intensify, highlighting the balance between commercial demand and civic aesthetics and the city's evolving urban identity overall today.

₹180-crore gap in PF deposits

Contractors managing solid waste in Bengaluru caused the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), formerly BBMP, a loss of more than ₹180 crore by failing to deposit Provident Fund (PF) contributions for about 6,000 sanitation workers between 2011 and July 2017. Although the contractors received full payments from the BBMP, they did not remit the required PF amounts for their contract workers. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) treated the BBMP as the primary employer and began recovery proceedings, including attaching over ₹90 crore from the BBMP's central account at Canara Bank in January 2018. The EPFO has now refused to return the attached funds, citing insufficient documentation and clarity from the BBMP, whose appeals were twice dismissed by the High Court. It has also directed the GBA to initiate strict legal action against the defaulting contractors—many identified in the report—to recover dues and bar them from future contracts. **–BMB**

Illegal ore export: Complaint against Karwar MLA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against Karwar MLA Satish Krishna Sail over the illegal export of seized iron ore that allegedly resulted in a loss of 44.09 crore to the state exchequer. The chargesheet, submitted before the special PMLA court in Bengaluru, also names Shree Mallikarjun Shipping Pvt. Ltd. as an accused in the case.

According to the ED, Sail entered into a criminal conspiracy with multiple accused companies to illegally purchase iron ore that had been seized and stored at Belekeri port, in violation of Karnataka High Court orders and Forest Department seizure directives. The ore was allegedly bought from six entities, including Ashapura Minechem Ltd. and Swastik Steel Pvt. Ltd., and then exported to China with the connivance of port conservator Mahesh J Biliye.

Investigators found that Sail made 46.18 crore in payments to procure the seized ore and routed the exports through his undisclosed foreign company, JI (HEBEI) Iron and Steel Investment Co. Ltd., Hong Kong. **–BMB**

Passenger who stabbed, robbed cab driver arrested

Hennur police have arrested a man in connection with the robbing and stabbing of a 29-year-old cab driver in Telecom Layout, Thanisandra Main Road, on Wednesday night.

The victim, Pradeep VK, a resident of Belavadi, Mysuru, was operating his cab when the incident occurred. According to police, Pradeep was waiting for customers near the Sub-Urban Bus Stand in Mysuru at around 7.20 pm on November 13 when an unidentified man approached him and hired the cab to Bengaluru for 3,000.

After reaching Shivajinagar at 10.30 pm, the passenger asked to be taken further to Hegdenagar and then Telecom Layout, claiming he would collect the fare from his sister. Around 11 pm, the accused allegedly stepped out, returned with a knife, and stabbed the driver above the right eyebrow and on both elbows before snatching his phone and 3,000. He then fled with the cab. Pradeep was admitted to Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital. Based on his complaint, Hennur Police traced and arrested the accused, identified as Manzoor alias Mansoor alias Dhoon, 38, of Shivajinagar. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

YOUNG BIRDER'S VISION

Our reader shares a delightful photograph clicked by her 12-year-old son, a young birder who has been observing and capturing nature since the age of four. Shot in the rocky landscapes of Ramanagara, this beautiful image highlights the keen eye and growing talent of a budding wildlife photographer—reminding us how early curiosity can blossom into a lifelong love for nature.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sanjith M**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

KR Puram station revamp stalls as residents demand answers, action

Despite grand promises and a 2024 foundation stone, commuters say no ramps, lifts or works have begun at the busy KR Puram hub

The long-promised redevelopment of Krishnarajapuram (KR Puram) Railway Station inaugurated with much enthusiasm when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone on February 26, 2024 remains firmly on paper. Nearly 20 months later, not a single visible element of the project has begun, alleges senior citizen and Horamavu resident G Kochu Sankar, who has written to South Western Railway officials demanding clarity.

In a letter addressed to Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Singh, Sankar says that despite repeated announcements, the station continues to lack even basic facilities such as ramps, lifts and escalators. The letter, also marked to Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and V Somanna, urges them to visit the station and witness the daily hardships faced by elderly commuters, people with disabilities and passengers struggling with luggage.

The redevelopment blueprint showcased last year promised a transformed station with a redesigned façade, a low-height foot overbridge with lifts, a new third-entry building, a much larger circulating area, expanded platform shelters, a multi-level parking facility, dedicated parking bays, an upgraded waiting hall, a VIP lounge, improved lighting, LED information systems, and disabled-friendly amenities across the premises.

However, Sankar notes that "not even the simplest accessibility improvement — a ramp has appeared on the ground." He recounts that for over 18 months, every query to the @RailwaySeva handle on X has drawn the same response: "Work is in progress." But he says the station premises continue to show no trace of any civil work. The most recent reply, he adds, was another vague assurance: "We are listening and will do our best to help."

Calling the situation unacceptable, he argues that residents now expect transparent, item-wise updates and realistic timelines for each component. With KR Puram serving as a critical hub for Bengaluru's eastern IT corridor, the lack of even basic mobility infrastructure continues to inconvenience thousands of passengers daily. Sankar hopes officials will visit the station and respond directly, "instead of offering copy-paste replies." **— BMB**

> **KR Puram is a lifeline for Bengaluru's eastern corridor, and yet, the accessibility issues inconvenience thousands. Rail officials have shown 'zero progress,' and I demand item-wise updates and real timelines for action!** – Senior citizen G Kochu Sankar

Commuters still struggle daily at KR Puram, as plans for new footbridges and waiting halls remain stalled with no visible work

DID YOU KNOW?

Solar storms lit up night skies across unexpected parts of the world this week, with vibrant auroras stretching deep into Europe and the United States. Space weather forecasters confirmed that geomagnetic storms reached severe levels, producing glowing colours visible in countries like Hungary and the UK, and as far south as Kansas, Colorado, and Texas. The storms also caused minor disruptions to GPS signals and power systems, according to NOAA's Shawn Dahl. Increased solar turbulence forced NASA to postpone the launch of Blue Origin's new rocket carrying Mars orbiters. Over recent days, the sun has ejected multiple coronal mass ejections, with another strong burst expected to reach Earth soon. Forecasters say it may be the most powerful of the recent trio, with aurora visibility depending on how it interacts with Earth's magnetic field. The sun is currently at the peak of its 11-year activity cycle, a period marked by magnetic chaos that makes auroras more frequent and widespread. Last year's strongest geomagnetic storm in decades produced lights seen far from the poles—including Germany, the UK and New York City. **— AP**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Deepfake alert: AI video falsely shows Air Marshal Dixit admitting Rafale losses

Claim: A widely circulated AI-generated deepfake video falsely shows Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit admitting that the Indian Air Force lost Rafale jets in May, portraying it as a learning opportunity. Propaganda accounts amplify the clip to create confusion, division and mistrust.

Fact: PIB confirmed the video is doctored; Air Marshal Dixit never mentioned losing Rafale jets. The real speech focused on lessons from Operation Sindoor, highlighting electronic warfare, cyber resilience and information-warfare strategies. The incident warns against falling for AI-generated misinformation spread by hostile propaganda networks.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check unit issued a sharp warning on Thursday regarding an AI-generated deepfake video circulating on social media, primarily pushed by Pakistani propaganda accounts.

The doctored footage falsely depicts Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit making highly inflammatory and false political remarks about the loss of Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale jets.

The manipulated clip attempts to sow seeds of distrust and division by putting words into the Air Marshal's mouth, making him appear to confess: "Yes, we lost our Rafale jets in May and that's exactly where our strength lies, in learning fast... the more jets we lose, the wiser we become."

This fabricated statement is a complete lie and aims to undermine faith in the Indian Armed Forces.

salahuddin
The Whistle Blower
WATCH | Delhi | Addressing the CAPSS-IMR Seminar, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit says," Each time a jet goes down, I tell my officers not grieve because that burning metal is the fire of education. The more we lose, the wiser we become. At this pace, by next May, we might
ROUP
rtner
DIGITALLY ALTERED

PIB's investigation revealed the viral video is a digital alteration of an original speech given by Air Marshal Dixit. In the genuine footage, the senior officer did not mention losing any jets. Instead, he highlighted the technological and strategic lessons learned from "Operation Sindoor," focusing on advancements in electronic warfare and cyber resilience.

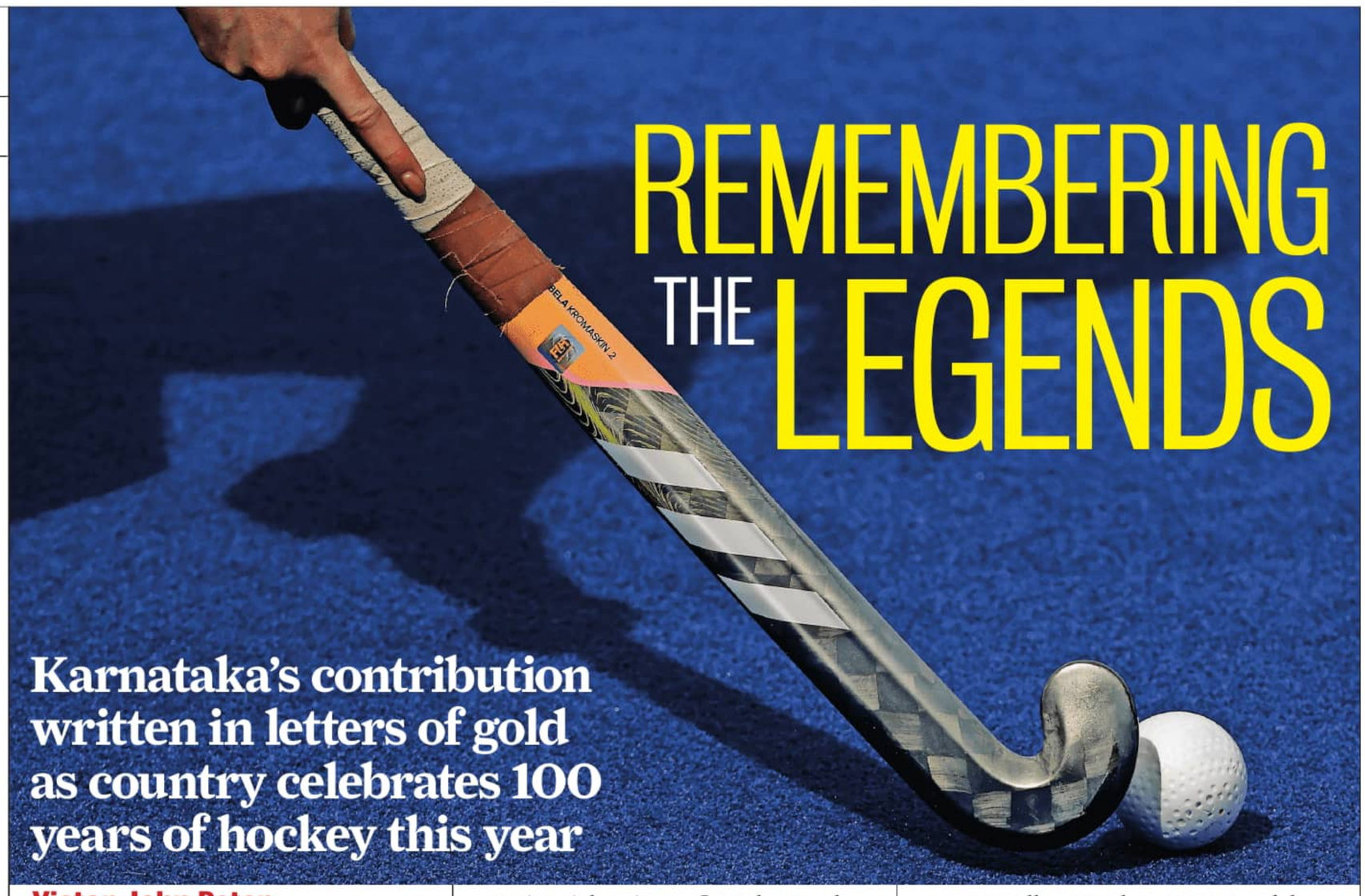
The Air Marshal's actual, verified remarks focused on operational success and information warfare: "Operation Sindoor also has taught us the value of electronic warfare and cyber resilience. We could jam hostile communication, blind enemy surveillance radar and take out the enemy's drones, all thanks to innovative solutions by Indian industry and academia...."

He further emphasised the importance of the "cognitive domain," stating that "winning the cognitive fight in media, in public perception and morale is just as important as guns and rockets."

The incident underscores the urgent need for digital vigilance in the face of rapidly advancing AI misinformation technology. "Several Pakistani propaganda handles are circulating a 'doctored video' falsely showing Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit making political remarks about losing Rafale jets," the PIB Fact Check said on X.

"Don't fall for AI-generated lies designed to sow distrust and division. Stay alert. Don't forward such fake content. For verified updates, always rely on official sources," it added.

THE SUNDAY READ



REMEMBERING THE LEGENDS

Karnataka's contribution written in letters of gold as country celebrates 100 years of hockey this year

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The history and contribution of Mysore, now Karnataka, must be written in letters of gold as the country celebrates 100 years of the National sport of hockey this year.

Of course, Coorg has been the 'cradle of hockey' for long. But there are other parts, essentially Bengaluru, Belgaum, Mysore, etc. apart from the Defence establishments in the city and the state which have unearthed some 'golden' talent.

Right from Muniswamy Rajagopal, popularly called as the 'Dhyan Chand of the South' for his dazzling skills and the daring goalkeeper Chinnadorai Deshamuthu in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki to VR Raghunath, SK Uthappa and Nithin Thimmaiah in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, there has been a steady stream of hockey talent flowing down the Cauvery over the decades.

Many women hockey players too right from the days of the Britto sisters, who have also made Karnataka equally proud. Umpires like SK Gupta, Sunder, Gokulraj, Palangappa, Krishnamurthy, who later turned administrator and became the secretary of the Karnataka State Hockey Association, Raghu Prasad and officials like Brig White, the omnipresent D'Cruz, DS Murthy, Radha Murthy, Veeraraghavan, KGS Alva to mention a few. Coaches like Ramesh Parameshwaran and Alexander have also made their mark.

The erstwhile Karnataka State Hockey Association also hosted major hockey tournaments. The Sullivan Police ground was a beehive of hockey activity. Tournaments like the Maharaja Cup, Clarke Trophy, the national championships for the Rangaswamy Trophy a couple of times and the local leagues drew big crowds. The icing on the cake for the KSHA was hosting a match the India vs Pakistan 'Test' series at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in the late 1970s.

After the Indian Hockey Federation and co-founders of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) got trapped in politics, Hockey India was formed with state associations also similarly named. That's how Hockey Karnataka came into being. The developments have had a cascading effect over the years with not much of talent coming to the fore leaving us with memories of legends of the past. Here are some to refresh your memories though the list is not exhaustive.

Muniswamy Rajgopal and Chinnadorai Deshmuthu

They have the distinction of being the first sportsmen from Karnataka to win an Olympic gold medal in any sport. Both represented India in the 1952 Olympics Games in Helsinki when India triumphed again in hockey. Rajgopal was 26 while Deshmuthu was the youngest at the age of 19 as they enabled India to win the hockey gold for the fifth time after winning it in 1928 (Paris), 1932 (Los Angeles), 1936 (Berlin) and 1948 (London).

"Men and women players, umpires, and associations from state that made a mark on National sport

Victor John Peter

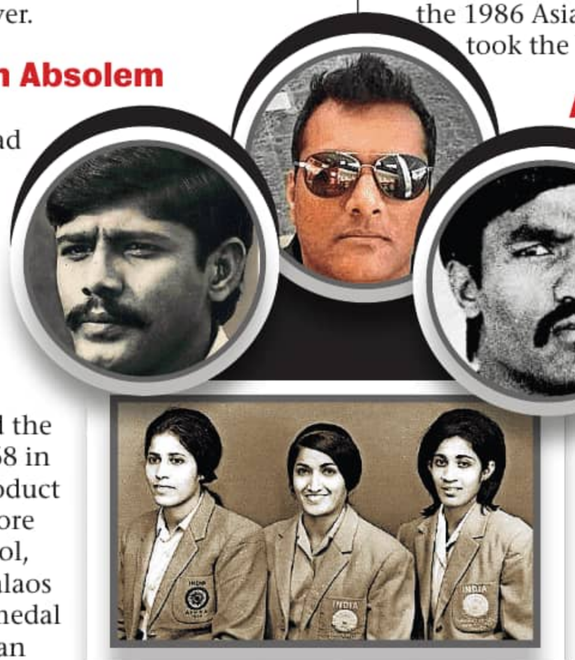
A triple Olympian, Peter has a unique collection of three Olympic hockey medals. In the 1960 Rome Olympics, he was part of the silver medal winning Indian team. In the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Peter was in the gold medal winning Indian team and in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, he got a bronze. Peter also bagged the gold in the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok. Peter is hailed as one of the best inside-rights India has ever produced. His brother VJ Philips was part of India's World Cup winning team in 1975. His youngest brother VJ Thomas also represented India.

Bandu Patil

The Maratha Light Infantry from Belgaum was where Bandu Patil honed his skills. An inside-left, Bandu patil was also part of India's gold medal winning team in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and he was also in the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta where India settled for silver.

Rajendran Absolem Christie

The Mysore lad was a fine goalkeeper and was in the goal as India bagged the gold in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and the bronze in 1968 in Mexico. A product of the Bangalore Military School, Christie was alaos in the silver medal winning Indian team in the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta.



Anit-clockwise from top: The Britto sisters (from right) – Rita, Elvera and Mae; BP Govinda; Ashish Ballal; ; MP Ganesh

Padma Shri Mollera Poovayya Ganesh

He hailed from Suntikoppa, Coorg, (now Kodagu). His incredible speed and remarkable agility saw him being carefully selected by the Army and he was deputed to the Corps of Signals in Jabalpur, MP. The rest, as they famously say, is glorious history. As a genuine right winger, Ganesh carved out a niche of his own.

Billimoga Puttaswamy Govinda

A teammate of MP Ganesh in the Indian team in the 1973 World Cup and the 1976 Montreal Olympics, was among the speediest wingers who also packed a lot of punch in his shooting. Govinda also represented India in the three Asian Games in 1970, 1974 and 1978 as India won the silver in all the three of them.

Maneyapanda Muthanna Somaya

The lad from Madikeri, Coorg, is a triple Olympian having been in the gold-medal winning team in the 1980 Moscow Olympics team and in the 1984 Los Angeles and 1988 Seoul Olympics when he captained the team. Somaya also played in the 1982 Asian Games when India won the silver and the 1986 Asian Games when they took the bronze.

Ashish Kumar Ballal

A goalkeeper par excellence, Ashish Kumar Ballal possesses a unique record. Never a 'tourist' on any high-profile India assignment, Ashish has been in the India 'cage' for 275 Internationals. Ashish is famous for the penalty stroke saves in the 13th Asian Games 1998 final at Bangkok, Thailand, and helped India to win the Asiad gold after a gap of 32 years. Ashish represented India in the 7th World Cup in Lahore in 1990. His heroic displays saw him being selected to represent India in the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992.

Anjaparavanda Bopaiah Subbaiah

Another Madikeri product, Subbaiah was a goalkeeper who was a part of the Indian teams in the 1990, 1994 and 1998 Asian Games. In 1998, India won the gold while the team settled for the silver in the two earlier events.

He is now the secretary of Hockey Karnataka.

Sabu Varkey

Another intelligent midfielder, Sabu Varkey of ITI and Bharat Petroleum, represented India in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the World Cup in 1994 (Sydney), 1998 (Utrecht) and 2002 (Kuala Lumpur apart from the 1994 and 1998 Asian Games. He was also part of many other international assignments.

Jude Sebastian Felix

An Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award winner, Jude Felix represented India with distinction in the 1998 and 1992 Olympics. A skilful midfielder par excellence, Jude also played for and captained the national team in two World Cups and two Asian Games. Jude took to coaching and guided India to the 2014 Asian Games gold medal and the silver medal for the Indian Juniors in the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2018.

Elvera Britto

The Britto sisters or the Cooke Town girls, are the torch bearers of women's hockey in Karnataka. Elvera, Rita and Mae represented Mysore and India on multiple occasions. Elvera captained Mysore to national glory for eight years in a row from 1960 onwards. A recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1965, Elvera was also President of the state women's hockey association.

Mallamada Narendra Ponnamma

She also hails from Coorg and was a solid defender having been part of the bronze medal winning Indian JUnior World Cup team in 2013.

Vidyashree V

A goalkeeper, she was recently selected to represent the Women's Junior India team for matches against the Netherlands and Belgium in November 2024. It was after a long period that Karnataka women had a representation in the National side.

Bihar verdict shadow over Karnataka

Congress party strategists say no hard decisions will be taken in state, which quells 'November Upheaval' talk

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BJP supporters burst crackers to celebrate NDA's lead in the Bihar assembly election in Patna on Friday

For the last few weeks, there has been buzz in the Karnataka political circles over the purported 'November Revolution' which could mark the transition of power from the incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to his Deputy DK Shivakumar as the former completes his two and a half years in office. However, the shock defeat of the Congress in Bihar might have come as a 'blessing in disguise' for Siddaramaiah. Insiders who had been expecting swift decisions from the high command on cabinet reshuffles, leadership changes, and organisational restructuring now find themselves confronted by an unusual silence at the top.

According to senior Congress figures, the Bihar setback has not only stalled immediate decision-making but has also exposed a crisis of confidence within the national leadership. Party strategists admit that the high command, already cautious, now appears even less inclined to enforce hard decisions in Karnataka, especially those that could trigger factional friction.

Brief pause

Before the Bihar results, political observers widely believed that Karnataka was heading toward significant changes; a major cabinet reshuffle or possible replacement of the KPCC president. Even Siddaramaiah's scheduled trip to Delhi had been interpreted as the first step toward these decisions. His camp had hinted that changes were imminent, while Shivakumar loyalists were publicly staking their claims. Despite warnings from senior leaders to maintain restraint, both factions continued issuing pointed statements almost daily.

But the Bihar verdict has reset the mood. Congress insiders say the high command, already under pressure, seems to have lost the assertiveness required to enforce controversial changes. With the party suffering a loss of crucial AHINDA (OBC-Dalit-Minority) support in Bihar, leaders close to Siddaramaiah argue that the high command will now be even more reluctant to sideline an AHINDA stalwart in Karnataka.

The biggest uncertainty now: How will the Shivakumar faction respond to the sudden inertia? Analysts note that while the high command may prefer status quo for now, it lacks the authority to dictate patience to an ambitious leader like Shivakumar. Whether he continues to wait—or escalates internal pressure—remains the critical unknown in the state's political equation.

For ministers warned that their positions may be under threat, the delay offers temporary relief. But for aspirants hoping to enter the cabinet, frustration is mounting. Several leaders had been preparing for new roles anticipating the post-Bihar momentum; that window now appears indefinitely pushed back.

Adding to the tension is a lingering fear within one faction of the Congress that the BJP—emboldened by Bihar—may attempt to unsettle the Karnataka government despite the Congress' comfortable support of 136 MLAs. Political observers say that while such fears may be exaggerated, they reflect genuine anxiety within segments of the ruling party.

To many political pundits, Bihar serves as a stark warning for the Congress in Karnataka. The consensus among analysts is clear: The ruling party cannot afford complacency. "If the Congress hopes to retain power in the next election cycle, its government in Karnataka will need to sharpen its governance profile with a stronger focus on development and welfare delivery. The Bihar loss has forced the high command to rethink every move carefully, weighing political costs and consequences more cautiously than before", said a political analyst.

What comes next?

With the political climate suddenly subdued, Karnataka now enters a period of uncertainty. The high command's hesitation has left both major factions watching and waiting. Whether this lull becomes a temporary pause or a prolonged stalemate will determine the next phase of state politics. For now, analysts say one thing is certain:The Bihar verdict has reshaped the Congress' calculations in Karnataka—perhaps more deeply than anyone expected.

120 extreme weather events in state in 2025

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The number of days with extreme weather events in Karnataka during 2022 was 83; in 2023, only 47 days with extreme weather events were recorded; in 2024, as many as 96 such days were recorded, and in 2025, this has gone up to 120.

Karnataka experienced extreme weather events on 120 of the 273 days (nearly 44 per cent of the days from January 1 to September 30). They claimed at least 117 lives, affected 62,586 hectares of crop area, killed over 944 animals, and damaged 3,849 houses.

The number of days with extreme weather events in Karnataka was second-highest in the South Peninsular region in India after Kerala (147 days).

In April this year, Karnataka had 17 extreme event days, and in July, 29 extreme event days were recorded. In the first nine months of this year, the state also had at least 28 days of lightning and storms, leading to the loss of 54 lives and 106 days with heavy rain, flood, and landslides, leading to the loss of 63 lives.

However, the number of lives lost during these extreme events appeared to have dropped. In 2022, as many as 181 deaths were recorded; this reduced to 117 deaths in 2025 despite an increase in the number of days of such events.

India scenario

As per the report titled 'Climate India 2025: An assessment of extreme weather events', India experienced extreme weather events on 99% of the days in the first nine months of the year.

India experienced extreme weather events on 270 of the 273 days, resulting in at least 4,064 lives lost, 9.47 million hectares of crop area affected, 58,982 animals dying, and 99,533 houses damaged.

2025 also broke several climate records. January was India's fifth driest since 1901, while February became the warmest in 124 years.

The private life of Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and why." Yet beneath this optimism runs a deep unease. Many argue that privacy laws in India tend to look impressive on paper but collapse in practice. A Whitefield software engineer remarked, "Strong rights mean nothing if enforcement is slow or toothless. We've seen too many breaches go unpunished." Others pointed out that government departments, which have a history of leaking citizen data through poorly secured portals, must be held to the same standards as private corporations if the law is to have credibility.

Digital-rights activists who have long campaigned for privacy legislation acknowledged the significance of the notification but warned of gaps that could weaken its impact. One activist argued that while the law promises consent, access and withdrawal rights, its true strength lies in how quickly and firmly authorities act when violations occur. "Without tight oversight, especially over government exemptions, citizens cannot rely on these protections," the activist said. Several groups emphasised that India's repeated history of large-scale leaks — from state databases to public service portals — makes uncompromising enforcement non-negotiable. They said they will closely track how the Data Protection Board handles breach notifications, grievance redress and non-compliant entities.

The corporate sector, especially within Bengaluru's tech ecosystem, largely welcomed the clarity. Companies working in AI, analytics and cloud services said the rules introduce discipline at a time when global scrutiny of data practices is intensifying. Ivana Bartoletti, Chief Privacy and AI Governance Officer at Wipro Limited, called the move a turning point, "There is no doubt that India has entered a new era of privacy. In the age of AI, trust is crucial… Robust data governance — anchored in clear responsibilities, defined structures, consent and privacy by design — enables organisations to grow in a sustainable and accountable way."

As India takes its first steps into a regulated digital future, Bengalureans are watching closely — hopeful that this time, the rules will genuinely return control of personal data to the people who own it.

VTU goes fully digital

In a major digital leap, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has introduced an online question paper preparation system, effective from the current academic year.

The move marks a complete transition to paperless examinations — from paper setting to evaluation and results — bringing VTU closer to becoming a fully "digital university."

While VTU has been conducting online transmission of question papers, exams, and results for nearly a decade, until now, question papers were prepared manually and physically at the university headquarters. Beginning this year, even that process has been digitized. **BMB**

Mid-day meal expansion on the cards

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said the proposed expansion of the mid-day meal scheme will be finalised after discussions with the Chief Minister. Responding to a student's query during the state-level Children's Day programme, he said the scheme—earlier limited to Class 8 and later extended up to Class 10—now includes eggs or bananas six days a week, supported by a ₹1,500-crore grant from the Azim Premji Foundation. He added that 13,000 teachers have already been appointed, with another 12,000 hires and over 6,000 posts in aided institutions to follow, alongside greater support for co-curricular activities. **BMB**

FDA clears first non-hormonal menopause drug for women

New therapy offers relief from severe hot flashes as Bengaluru doctors highlight rising awareness, lingering stigma, and need for safer alternatives

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In a breakthrough for women's health, according to reports the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Lynkuet (elinzanetant) the first dual neurokinin-receptor blocker designed to treat moderate-to-severe hot flashes and night sweats associated with menopause. It offers a non-hormonal alternative for women who cannot, or prefer not to, take hormone therapy.

Hot flashes and night sweats affect millions of women globally, often disrupting sleep, work, emotional health and overall quality of life. Until now, treatment has largely relied on hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Doctors in Bengaluru say the FDA's approval comes at a crucial time, as awareness around menopause and its impact on women's health is slowly growing in India. Many experts believe that the introduction of a scientifically validated non-hormonal option may encourage more women to seek timely support rather than silently endure symptoms due to fear or misinformation.

Dr Deepthi Ashwin, Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Aster Women & Children, Bengaluru, said earlier concerns linking HRT to endometrial and breast cancer have now been scientifically disproved. "We know that HRT is beneficial for most menopausal women; however, acceptance and willingness to take it remain low," she said. According to her, the word "hormone" still carries stigma, making many women hesitant to use therapy even when medically indicated. She added that nutritional support through calcium, magnesium and omega-3 fatty acids may help, but there is limited Indian data on nutritional or non-hormonal therapies. "There is research on bio-identical hormones as well, but acceptance is still poor. Sometimes we are unable to help women with HRT even when it is required," she said.

Hot flashes typically begin during perimenopause and continue into menopause, most commonly affecting women aged 45 to 55. Dr Nirmala M, Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Motherhood Hospital, Whitefield, Bengaluru, explained that fluctuating estrogen levels disrupt the brain's thermoregulatory centre, causing sudden dilation of blood vessels and resulting in heat surges, sweating and occasional chills. She noted that lifestyle factors in urban India can intensify symptoms. "Higher stress levels, irregular sleep patterns, lack of physical activity and diets low in phytoestrogens—or high in spicy foods and caffeine—can worsen hot flashes," she said.

For women who decline HRT, alternatives such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), gabapentin, and herbal or phytoestrogen-based supplements are often recommended, alongside lifestyle modifications. Dr Nirmala shared the case of a 52-year-old woman experiencing severe hot flashes and disturbed sleep who had avoided hormone therapy and struggled with home remedies. With the arrival of newer non-hormonal options, she was placed on a personalised plan combining lifestyle changes, dietary support and targeted medication. Within months, her symptoms eased and her sleep improved significantly, giving her renewed confidence in managing menopause.

Specialists say fluctuating estrogen intensifies symptoms, making nutrition, exercise, stress control and new hormanal therapies essential

Approval marks breakthrough for women avoiding hormone therapy, offering targeted relief from menopausal symptoms as growing awareness and personalised care improve women's treatment

Tick-linked meat allergy causes death

Researchers have documented what appears to be the first confirmed death caused by alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), a severe meat allergy triggered by bites from the Lone Star tick. The case involves a 47-year-old New Jersey airline pilot who died in 2024 after suffering a delayed allergic reaction to red meat. AGS, first linked to tick bites in 2011, has affected more than 100,000 Americans, causing reactions hours after consuming beef, pork, or other mammalian meat.

The man first fell ill during a camping trip after eating steak late at night, waking several hours later with severe stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. He recovered by morning and later returned home. Two weeks after the first episode, he ate a hamburger at a barbecue and developed a similar reaction roughly four hours later. **–AP**

Marburg outbreak in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has confirmed its first outbreak of Marburg virus disease after nine cases were reported in the Omo region, prompting urgent action from the Ministry of Health and raising concerns about cross-border spread, Al Jazeera reported. The cases emerged in an area close to South Sudan, where health workers had flagged patients showing symptoms consistent with viral hemorrhagic fever. Following laboratory confirmation, Ethiopia moved swiftly to deploy response teams, conduct contact tracing, and strengthen surveillance in high-risk communities.

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised Ethiopia's "rapid and transparent" response, noting that early action is crucial to containing the virus. The inestigation continues worldwide. **–ANI**

US reports first human H5N5 infection

Health officials in Washington state have confirmed a rare human case of bird flu — and this time, it's caused by a different strain than the one seen in previous US infections. An older adult with underlying health conditions, currently hospitalised, has been infected with the H5N5 subtype of avian influenza. Officials say this is the first known human infection with H5N5 anywhere in the world.

The case, initially reported on Thursday and confirmed on Friday, marks the nation's first human bird flu infection since February. Despite the unusual subtype, experts say H5N5 poses no greater human risk than H5N1, which caused mostly mild US cases. **–AP**

Sabarimala: Advisory issued on river bath amid brain fever threat

Kerala issues detailed Sabarimala advisory on infection prevention and emergency preparedness for pilgrims

The health department in Kerala on Saturday issued an advisory to Sabarimala devotees with special emphasis on preventing water from entering the nose in the wake of amoebic meningoencephalitis (brain fever) cases reported in the state, as the annual pilgrimage season begins on November 17.

The department urged pilgrims undergoing medical treatment to carry their records and medicines, and stressed that regular medications should not be discontinued while preparing for the pilgrimage. "Devotees bathing in rivers should ensure that no water enters their noses," the advisory said. While the note did not spell out the reason for this specific caution, similar directions were issued recently when Kerala witnessed a spate of brain-fever cases linked to contaminated water sources.

Pilgrims have also been encouraged to engage in mild exercise, such as walking, in the days leading up to the journey to avoid exertion-related health issues. They have been advised to climb slowly, take breaks, stay hydrated, and seek medical care if they experience fatigue, chest pain, breathlessness or weakness. For emergencies, a helpline (04735-203232) will be operational throughout the season.

The advisory further instructs devotees to drink only boiled water, wash hands before meals, consume washed fruits, and avoid stale or exposed food commonly sold along the routes. Open defecation has been strictly prohibited, and waste must be disposed of in designated bins to prevent contamination and waterborne infections. In case of snakebite, immediate medical attention is recommended, with anti-venom available at hospitals and temporary health centres. Officials also urged pilgrims to avoid overcrowded bathing areas and to use designated safe points for water access. Elderly pilgrims and those with chronic illnesses are urged to rest often and avoid peak- heat trekking on crowded festival days always. **–PTI**

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Karnataka's wildlife conflict management system is under severe strain, with the state's tiger rehabilitation centres— located in Mysuru and Bannerghatta near Bengaluru — now filled to capacity. With repeated tiger captures from conflict zones and no space left to house new arrivals, forest officials say it has become unavoidable to send freshly captured tigers to the Bannerghatta facility, raising urgent calls for an additional centre to be set up.

Sources said that with human–wildlife conflict intensifying, the number of rescues has skyrocketed. **BMB**

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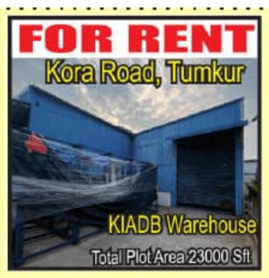

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personal

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I, Hina Shaikh Salim Shaikh W/o, Syed Ishraq R/o No 690, 5th Cross Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039 have changed my name to Shaik Heena for all purposes.

I, Likith Sagar S/o Shanthi Sagar Kanipakam R/o No F58, Simran, Manyata Residency 4th Cross, Nagavara Batch 15, B'luru-560045 have changed my name to Likith Sagar Kanipakam for all purposes.

I, Valsamma W/o Shihabudeen R/o St Judes Shanthi Vihar, Thippaiah Lty, Krishna, Nagar K R Puram, B'luru-560036 have changed my name to Valsamma Varghese for all purposes.

I, KIRANA KUMARA K S, Residing at Kyadigunte Village, Siddeshwaranadurga Challakere, Chitradurga – 577538, have changed my name to KIRAN KUMAR K S, vide affidavit dated 12/11/2025 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

WE, Prabhu N and Veena M, residing at No. 22, 2nd Main Road, 7th Cross, Srinivasanagar, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru - 560091, have changed our daughter's name from Pranavi V.P. to Kathyayani V.P. This change has been confirmed through an Affidavit sworn before Advocate Prakasha C on 16/10/2025.

LOST & FOUND

ದಾಖಲೆ ಕಳೆದಿದೆ
ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮ್ಮಲಿ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವು ದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಜಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ನಗರದ ಡೋರ್ ನಂ 2012 ಎರಡನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಜಿ.ಎನ್. ಆರ್. ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ನಿರಂಜನ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ಆದ ನನ್ನಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಹೋದರಿಯಾದ ಹೆಚ್‌ಆರ್ ಸುಮನ ರವರು ಬರೆಯಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಸಂಖ್ಯ 54/11-12 ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹಕ್ಕು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಪತ್ರ ದಿನಾಂಕ 4/11/25 ರಂದು ಕಳುವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ, ಈ ಕುರಿತು ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು ಸಧರಿ ಹಕ್ಕುಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಪತ್ರವು ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ದೊರೆತಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9886850232** ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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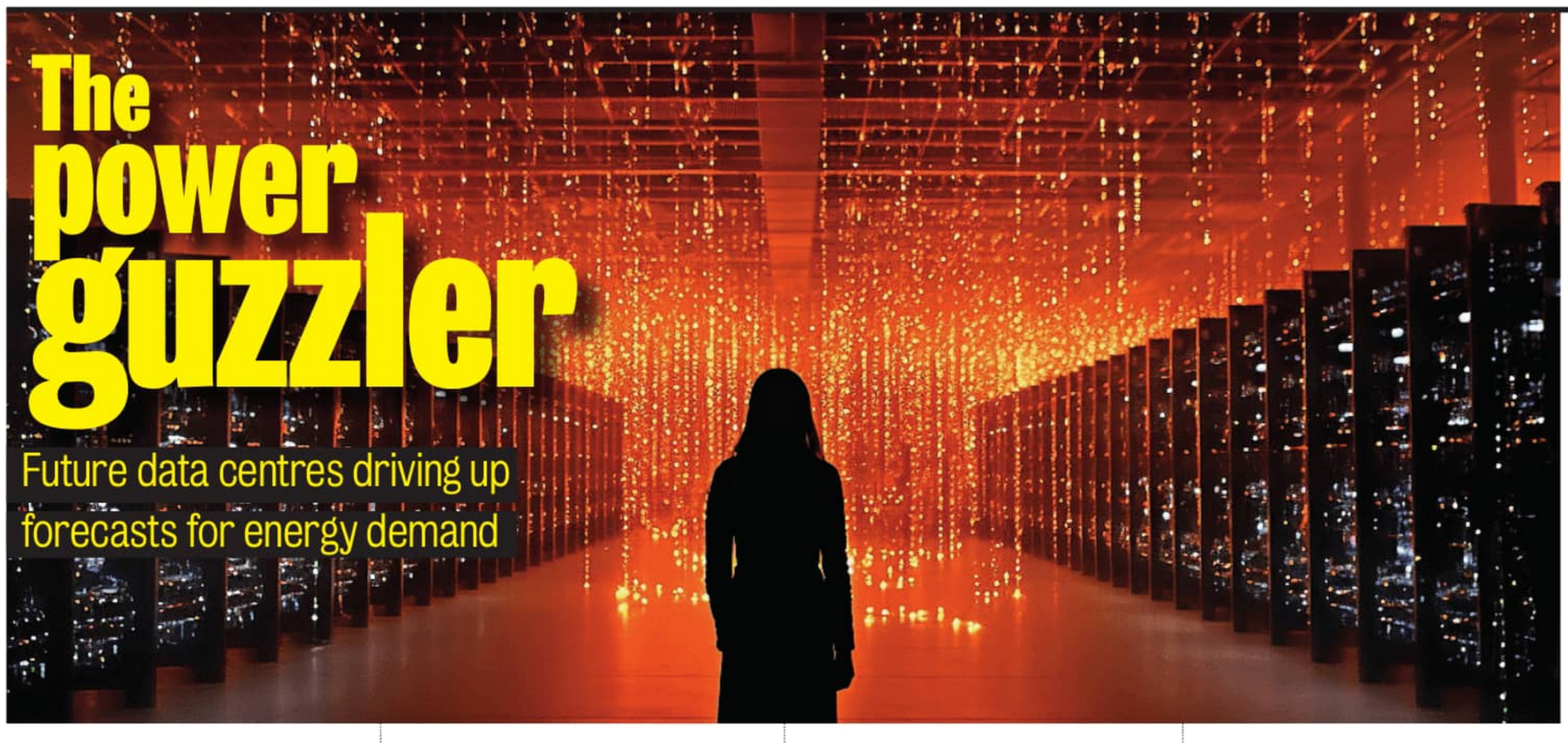
 # BrahMos demand
Indonesia has made a bid to purchase the BrahMos missile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday



The power guzzler

Future data centres driving up forecasts for energy demand

The forecasts are eye-popping: utilities saying they'll need two or three times more electricity within a few years to power massive new data centres that are feeding a fast-growing AI economy.

But the challenges — some say the impossibility — of building new power plants to meet that demand so quickly has set off alarm bells for lawmakers, policymakers and regulators who wonder if those utility forecasts can be trusted.

One burning question is whether the forecasts are based on data centre projects that may never get built — eliciting concern that regular ratepayers could be stuck with the bill to build unnecessary power plants and grid infrastructure at a cost of billions of dollars. The scrutiny comes as analysts warn of the risk of an artificial intelligence investment bubble that's ballooned tech stock prices and could burst.

Meanwhile, consumer advocates are finding that ratepayers in some areas — such as the mid-Atlantic electricity grid, which encompasses all or parts of 13 states stretching from New Jersey to Illinois, as well as Washington, DC — are already underwriting the cost to supply power to data centres, some of them built, some not. "There's speculation in there," said Joe Bowring, who heads Monitoring Analytics, the independent market watchdog in the mid-Atlantic grid territory. "Nobody knows. Nobody has been looking carefully enough at the forecast to know what's speculative, what's double-counting, what's real, what's not."

Suspicions about skyrocketing demand

There is no standard practice across grids or for utilities to vet such massive projects, and figuring out a solution has become a hot topic, utilities and grid operators say.

Uncertainty around forecasts is typically traced to a couple of things. One concerns developers seeking a grid connection, but whose plans aren't set in stone or lack the heft — clients, financing or otherwise — to bring the project to completion, industry and regulatory officials say.

Another is data centre developers submitting grid connection requests in various separate utility territories, PJM Interconnection, which operates the mid-Atlantic grid, and Texas lawmakers have found.

Often, developers, for competitive reasons, won't tell utilities if or where they've submitted other requests for electricity, PJM said. That means a single project could inflate the energy forecasts of multiple utilities.

The effort to improve forecasts got a high-profile boost in September, when a Federal

Challenges — some say the impossibility — of building new power plants to meet that demand so quickly has set off alarm bells

Energy Regulatory Commission member asked the nation's grid operators for information on how they determine that a project is not only viable, but will use the electricity it says it needs.

"Better data, better decision-making, better and faster decisions mean we can get all these projects, all this infrastructure built," the commissioner, David Rosner, said in an interview.

The Edison Electric Institute, a trade association of for-profit electric utilities, said it welcomed efforts to improve demand forecasting.

Real, speculative, or in between both

The Data Centre Coalition, which represents tech giants like Google and Meta and data center developers, has urged regulators to request more information from utilities on their forecasts and to develop a set of best practices to determine the commercial viability of a data centre project. The coalition's vice president of energy, Aaron Tinjum, said improving the accuracy and transparency of forecasts is a "fundamental first step of really meeting this moment" of energy growth.

"Wherever we go, the question is, Is the (energy) growth real? How can we be so sure?'" Tinjum said.

"And we really view commercial readiness verification as one of those important kind of low-hanging opportunities for us to be adopting at this moment."

Igal Feibush, the CEO of Pennsylvania Data Centre Partners, a data centre developer, said utilities are in a "fire drill" as they try to vet a deluge of data centre projects all seeking electricity.

The vast majority, he said, will fall off because many project backers are new to the concept and don't know what it takes to get a data centre built.

Electricity bills are rising, too

PPL Electric Utilities, which delivers power to 1.5 million customers across central and eastern Pennsylvania, projects that data centres will more than triple its peak electricity demand by 2030.

Vincent Sorgi, president and CEO of PPL Corp., told analysts on an earnings call this month that the data centre projects "are real, they are coming fast and furious" and that the "near-term risk of overbuilding generation simply does not exist." **AP**

Anthropic warns of AI-driven hacking campaign linked to China

A team of researchers has uncovered what they say is the first reported use of artificial intelligence to direct a hacking campaign in a largely automated fashion.

The AI company Anthropic said this week that it disrupted a cyber operation that its researchers linked to the Chinese government. The operation involved the use of an artificial intelligence system to direct the hacking campaigns, which researchers called a disturbing development that could greatly expand the reach of AI-equipped hackers.

While concerns about the use of AI to drive cyber operations are not new, what is concerning about the new operation is the degree to which AI was able to automate some of the work, the researchers said.

"While we predicted these capabilities would continue to evolve, what has stood out to us is how quickly they have done so at scale," they wrote in their report.

The operation targeted tech companies, financial institutions, chemical companies and government agencies. The researchers wrote that the hackers attacked "roughly thirty global targets and succeeded in a small number of cases." Anthropic detected the operation in September and took steps to shut it down and notify the affected parties.

Anthropic noted that while AI systems are increasingly being used in a variety of settings for work and leisure, they can also be weaponized by hacking groups working for foreign adversaries. The San Francisco-based company, maker of the generative AI chatbot Claude, is one of many tech developers pitching AI "agents" that go beyond a chatbot's capability to access computer tools and take actions on a person's behalf.

"Agents are valuable for everyday work and productivity — but in the wrong hands, they can substantially increase the viability of large-scale cyberattacks," the researchers concluded. "These attacks are likely to only grow in their effectiveness." A spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington did not immediately return a message seeking comment on the report. **AP**

BITS & BYTES

RAIN SENSOR AND MORE

An automatic water timer for drip irrigation with a smart rain sensor, home automation system, electric bicycle, smart dustbin, and a river surface waste cleaning machine -- these are among the innovations on display at IIT Delhi's 'Manufacturing Innovation Show' here on Saturday.

"The show is a dynamic exhibition showcasing the incredible creativity and practical skills of IIT Delhi's first-year undergraduates who have transformed their innovative ideas into functional prototypes," a senior Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi official said. The mega projects represent large-scale, complex engineering challenges. "These projects delve into robotics and human-machine interaction, featuring the openarm project and anthropomorphic face and hand," the official said. **PTI**

WHO WILL BE APPLE CEO?

Apple is stepping up its succession planning efforts as it prepares for Tim Cook to step down as chief executive of the tech giant as soon as next year, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

John Ternus, Apple's senior vice president of hardware engineering, is widely seen as Cook's most likely successor, the FT reported, citing several people familiar with discussions.

Apple did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

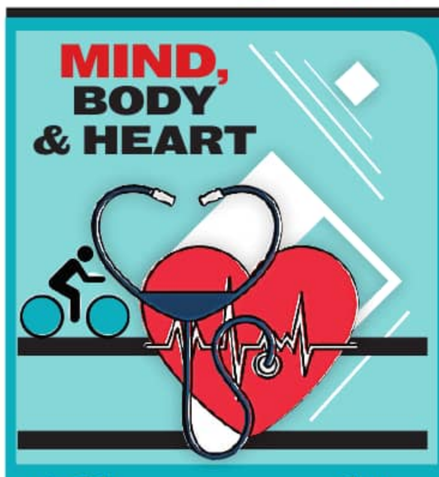
The newspaper quoted people familiar with discussions inside the iPhone maker as saying its board and senior executives had recently intensified preparations for Cook to hand over the reins after more than 14 years. Apple is unlikely to name a new CEO before its next earnings report in late January, which covers the critical holiday period, the FT said. **Reuters**

CHANNELS DEAL STRUCK

Disney and YouTube TV reached a new deal to bring channels like ABC and ESPN back to the Google-owned livestreaming platform Friday, ending a blackout for customers that dragged on for over two weeks.

"As part of the new deal, Disney's full suite of networks and stations — including ESPN and ABC — have already begun to be restored to YouTube TV subscribers," The Walt Disney Co. said in a statement.

YouTube TV also confirmed the return of Disney content on its platform, noting that subscribers should see channels back "over the course of the day." It apologized for the disruption and thanked customers for their "patience as we negotiated on their behalf." Disney content went dark on YouTube TV the night of Oct. 30 after the two sides failed to reach a new licensing deal and YouTube TV subscribers were left without Disney channels on the platform. **Reuters**



All you need to know about...

Communication gaps

Assumptions based on gender roles
In many Indian households, traditional gender roles are still distinguished. A woman might expect her partner to handle all financial decisions while she takes care of the home. If these expectations aren't discussed as the relationship becomes more serious, resentment can build over time as both partners may have different visions for the relationship.

Emotional disconnect
When emotional desires or needs go unspoken in a relationship, it creates distance. This could involve wanting more physical intimacy, scheduling regular date nights, or even reducing screen time. If you withhold this information and expect your partner to figure it out, it will lead to frustration and disappointment.

Family expectations
Unspoken expectations about the roles you and your partner will play in each other's families can cause resentment and anger. For instance, if a girlfriend expects her boyfriend to engage more with her family by attending dinners and outings but doesn't communicate this, unmet expectations can lead to conflict. Open dialogue about family roles is vital to maintaining harmony on both sides.

Effective communication
Lastly, it's important not just to communicate but to ensure that your communication is effective. Avoid sounding accusatory or nagging your partner. Be patient and explain your needs maturely. If they struggle to respond maturely, that's a different issue, but your goal should be to express yourself in a way that doesn't make them feel attacked. For example, use "I" statements like "I would appreciate more help with the dishes" instead of "You never help around the house."

—Shazeen Shivdasani, relationship expert, Femina

TRY IT OUT

Varied tastes that you can pick and choose from

GOSHT SEEKH KEBAB

INGREDIENTS
For Marination
- Lamb mince- 500g
- Medium onion, finely chopped- 1
- Ginger-garlic paste – 2 tbsp
- Roasted cumin powder – 1 tsp
- Garam masala powder – ½ tsp
- Kashmiri red chili powder – 1 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Fresh coriander leaves, chopped – 2 tbsp
- Green chilies, chopped – 2
- Lamb fat (optional) – 50 g
- Butter for basting – 2 tbsp

METHOD
- Mix lamb mince, onion, ginger-garlic paste, cumin powder, garam masala, chili powder, salt, coriander leaves, and green chilies in a bowl. Add lamb fat if using.
- Knead the mixture well until sticky and pliable. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.
- Divide into portions. Using wet hands, shape around skewers into cylindrical kebabs.
- Cook in a preheated tandoor for 7–8 minutes, basting with butter.
- Serve hot with mint chutney, onion rings, and lemon wedges.
- Pair with naan, rumali roti, or biryani for a complete meal.

Recipe by Chef Yunus Khan, Visiting Chef, Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Hebbal

COORG COFFEE CREMEUX WITH HAZELNUT DACQUOISE

INGREDIENTS
For Dacquoise
- 250 gms blanched hazelnuts
- 1½ cup sugar
- 3 tsp cornstarch
- 6 large egg whites
- Pinch salt

For Cremeux
- 70 gms White Chocolate
- 15 gms castor sugar
- 120 gms whole milk
- 40 gms coorg filter coffee
- 30 gms heavy
- 2 large egg yolks
- Pinch salt

METHOD
- Dacquoise: Whip egg whites with sugar, fold in dry mix, spread on tray, and bake at 170°C for 15–18 mins. Cool and cut.
- Cremeux: Heat cream and milk with coffee, infuse and strain. Whisk yolks with sugar, temper with coffee cream, cook until thick. Stir in white chocolate and chill.
- Assemble: Layer dacquoise with cremeux, garnish with nibs or hazelnuts, and smoke lightly if desired.

Recipe by Manivannan Govindachari, Executive Pastry Chef, at Lush, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel

PANEER & PEANUT SEEKH KEBAB

INGREDIENTS
- Paneer, grated – 250 g
- Roasted peanuts, coarsely ground – 3 tbsp
- Boiled potato, grated – 1 medium
- Sendha namak (rock salt / pink salt) – to taste
- Green chilli, finely chopped – 1
- Fresh ginger, grated – 1 tsp
- Fresh coriander leaves, finely chopped – 2 tbsp
- Amaranth (rajgira) flour or Buckwheat (kuttu) flour – 2–3 tbsp
- Roasted cumin powder (jeera) – ½ tsp
- Freshly ground black pepper – ½ tsp
- Lemon juice – 1 tsp
- Ghee – as required

METHOD
- In a mixing bowl, combine paneer, roasted peanuts, potato, green chilli, ginger, coriander, cumin, black pepper, and sendha namak.
- Gradually add flour until the mixture binds into a soft, firm dough. Finish with lemon juice.
- (Optional) For a smoky aroma, place the cooked kebabs in a covered bowl with a small katori containing hot coal drizzled with ghee for 1–2 minutes.
- Grease your palms with ghee, take a portion of the mixture, and shape evenly around skewers into elongated kebabs.
- Heat a grill pan or tawa, brush lightly with ghee or peanut oil, and cook kebabs over medium heat, rotating until golden on all sides (8–10 minutes). Alternatively, bake at 200°C for 12–15 minutes, turning once.
- Serve hot, finished with a squeeze of lemon juice.

Recipe by Shreyas Bhat, Culinary Director, GAIA

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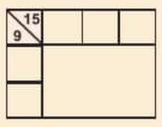
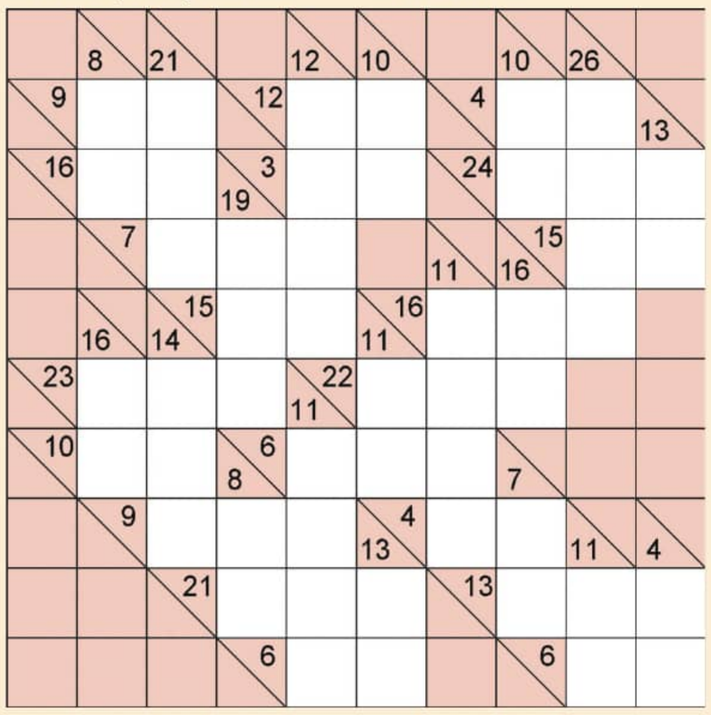
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

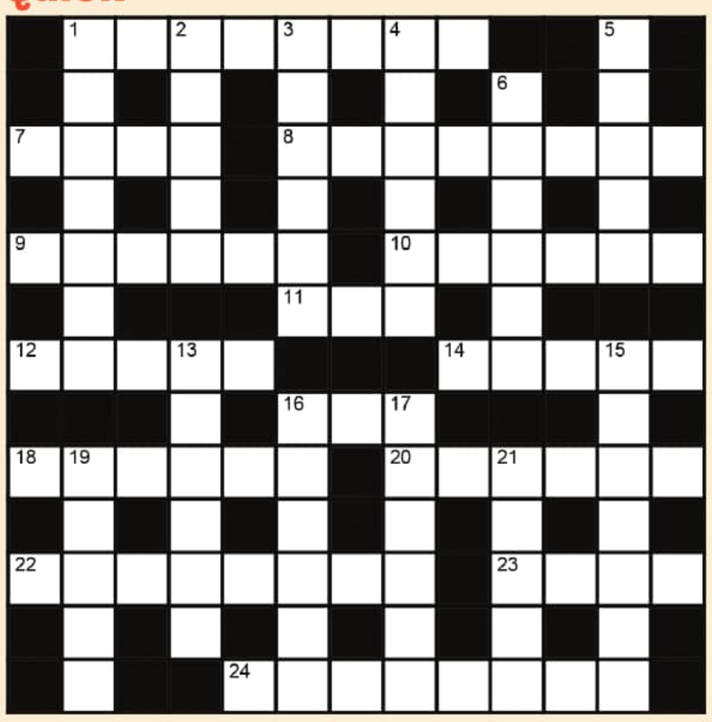
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Volcano near Naples (8)
7 Goad a horse (4)
8 Novel (8)
9 Irish accent (6)
10 Entails or necessitates (6)
11 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
12 To entertain (5)
14 An unforeseen obstacle (1,4)
16 Cropped hairstyle (3)
18 Disappear (6)
20 Metal pins use as fasteners (6)
22 Be an optimist and plan in a grandiose manner? (5,3)
23 Ocean liner (4)
24 Grasslands (8)

DOWN

1 Bangalore's famous food street (2,5)
2 Raise shoulders (5)
3 Reddish blue colour (6)
4 Merges or brings together (6)
5 Criticism or censure (5)
6 Majority of us Indians (6)
13 Very thin (6)
15 Achieves or accomplishes (7)
16 B in BARC? (6)
17 Quite clever (6)
19 Ex-India batsman Mankad (5)
21 Eye shield (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS T

EGLSRNQL RBQ RKHRCL TZBWGFRVKQ, GT ZPQ JRL SJQ AZOBRWQ SZ RUEGS SJQE.

Linemaro

You and I have a love so secret that not even you know about it; but first let me introduce mysef

Mindchow

Laws too gentle, are seldom obeyed; too severe, seldom executed

Joke of the day

Before I met my husband, I'd never fallen in love, though I'd stepped in it a few times

Loop

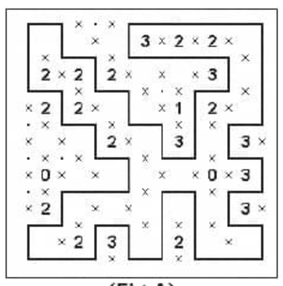
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

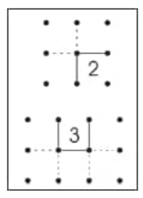
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

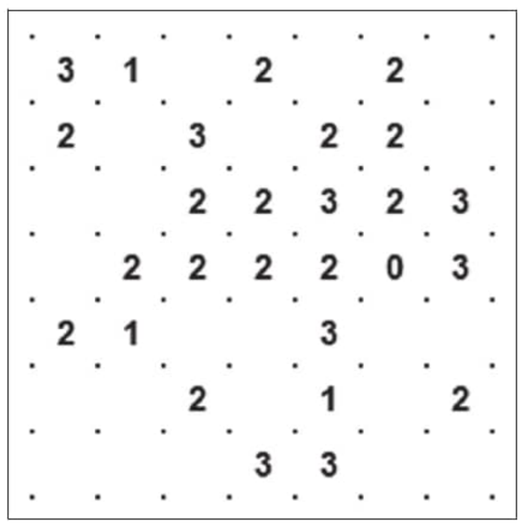
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



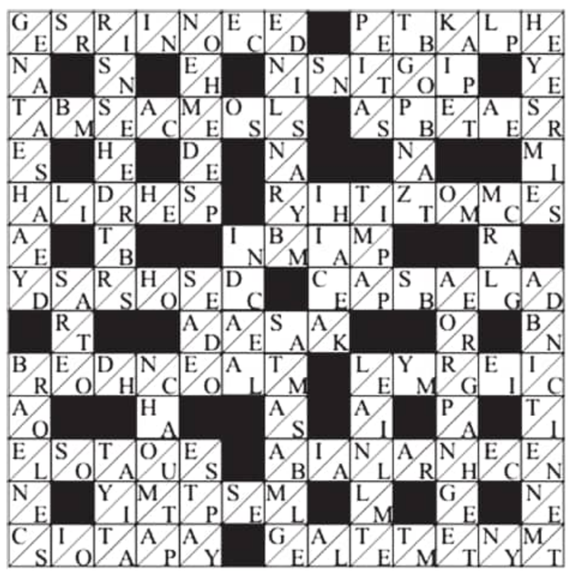
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



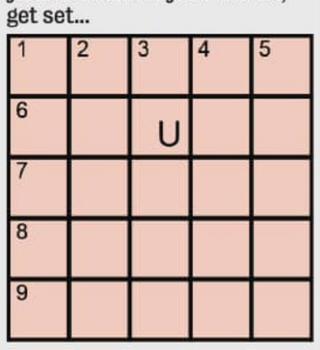
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

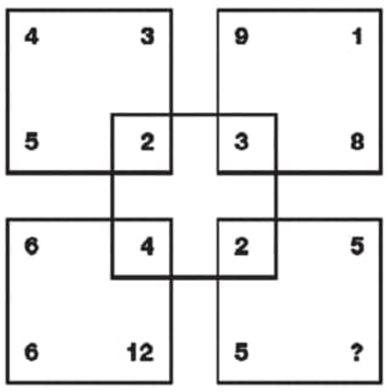
1 Cries; 6 Ree Nu;
7 Warts; 8 Aries;
9 Or owe

DOWN

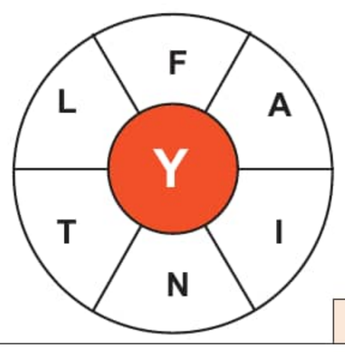
1 Wears; 2 It nor;
3 U Rico; 4 Saree;
5 Resew

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark in the bottom square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9				2			3
	1					9	8	7
3				4				1
		1	3		7		2	
	2		4		9	1		
6				7				5
5	4	8					6	
1			5				9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16

1 2 6 7

Medium = 34

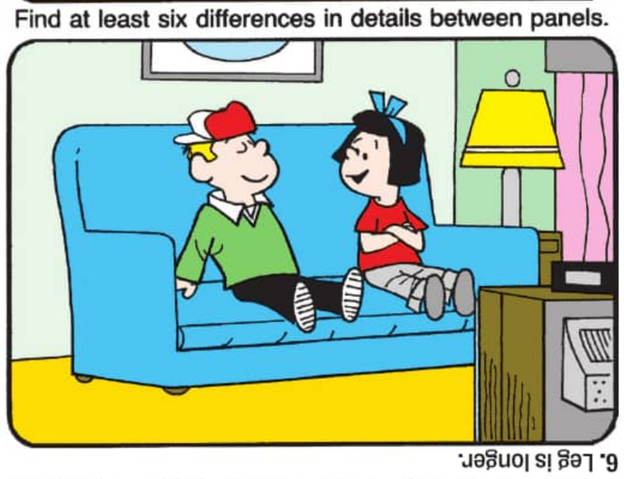
2 5 6 6

Hard = 60

4 6 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



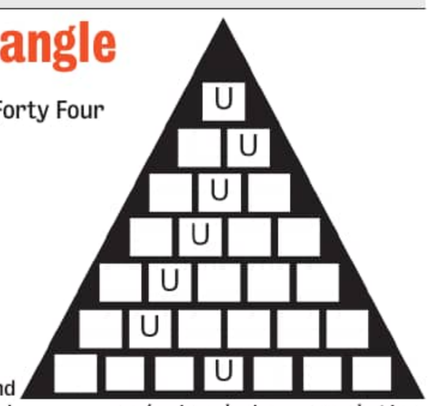
Differences: 1. Ann is moved. 2. Lamp is moved. 3. Sofa is not as wide. 4. Bow is moved. 5. Shirt is different. 6. Leg is longer.

Riddler

When you behead a word, you remove the first letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

Alpha triangle

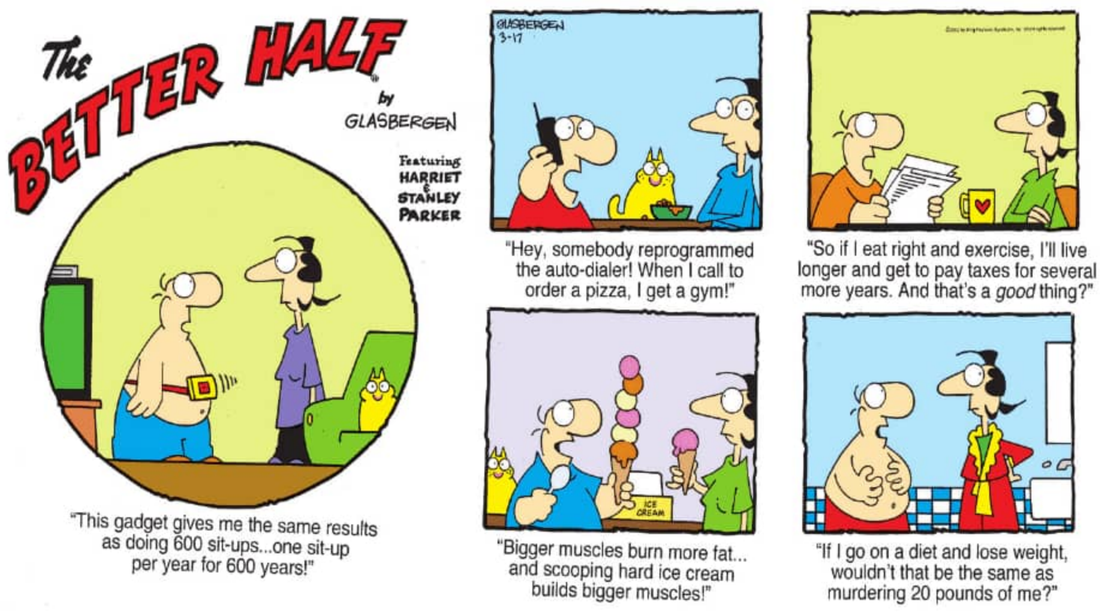
1 A type of turn
2 Atomic number Forty Four
3 Regret
4 Certain
5 Change holder
6 We spend them
7 Reads



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

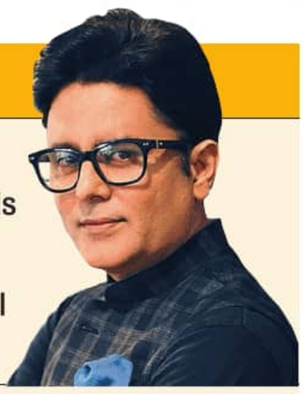
COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"This gadget gives me the same results as doing 600 sit-ups...one sit-up per year for 600 years!"
GLASBERGEN 3-17
"Hey, somebody reprogrammed the auto-dialer! When I call to order a pizza, I get a gym!"
"So if I eat right and exercise, I'll live longer and get to pay taxes for several more years. And that's a good thing?"
ICE CREAM
"Bigger muscles burn more fat... and scooping hard ice cream builds bigger muscles!"
"If I go on a diet and lose weight, wouldn't that be the same as murdering 20 pounds of me?"

FLASH GORDON
I AM DOCTOR HANS ALEXIS ZARKOV. I AM, AT MY BEST, A MAN OF SCIENCE.
WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT AN ALIEN THREAT WAS COMING TO DESTROY THE EARTH, EVERYONE CALLED ME INSANE.
IN MY FRENZY TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE MY WORLD, I LOST MY MIND...
...PROVING THEM WRONG ABOUT THE SCIENCE... BUT RIGHT ABOUT ME.
BY THE TIME I CAME TO MY SENSES, I'D DRAGGED TWO YOUNG STRANGERS TO A PLANET AT WAR.
THEY ARE BRAVE, KIND, THE BEST OF HUMANITY-- TRAPPED HERE BECAUSE OF ME.
ONE DAY, I WILL MAKE THAT RIGHT.
FLASH, DALE AND I --DR. ZARKOV-- FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF THE MISSING PRINCE BARIN TO THIS PLACE:
"BORROWER'S FIRTH."
A DESERT MARKET FOR SMUGGLERS AND SCAVENGERS, UNDER THE WATCH OF THEIR UNSETTLING PEACEKEEPER, BONES MALOCK.
WE REALIZE THE TRACE WE'RE FOLLOWING -- ENERGY FROM MING'S ENGINES OF WAR -- IS ALL AROUND US.
WE'RE SURROUNDED BY STOLEN BATTLEFIELD BOUNTY.
A SEARCH OF THE MARKET TURNS UP ONLY THE SAD REFUSE OF A BLOODY WAR AND A FALLEN EMPIRE...
FLASH, LOOK!
...UNTIL WE SPOT IT!
THE FRIGIAN SNOWBLADE LAST SEEN IN BARIN'S HANDS!
A FRESH CLUE AT LAST.
CLEARLY, WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT PLACE...
Y'HEAR WHAT THE OLD ONE CALLED THE BIG ONE?
"FLASH." AS IN FLASH GORDON.
THAT ALIEN SCUM WHO KILLED OUR EMPEROR...
NEXT: WORD'S OUT

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Career stability is a key focus; consolidating your current efforts leads directly to a pay increase. Finances are secure, provided you pay off outstanding debts swiftly and fully. Love is deeply committed and reliable, offering a constant source of quiet comfort. Family elders will play a vital role in offering necessary wisdom and guidance.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Peace surrounds you today as financial gains boost confidence. Promising romantic prospects emerge, and career growth opportunities appear. Embrace balance, gratitude, and openness as success unfolds.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your professional network strengthens progress and efficiency. Guidance from elders ensures personal and professional advancement. If considering commitment, support surrounds you. The letter J brings luck.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Lunar blessings bring ease and harmony. Goals align effortlessly, relationship tensions resolve, and children regain focus on studies. Use this calm momentum to plan ahead and celebrate peaceful domestic balance.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

A creative spark inspires new hobbies or interests. Busy workdays demand smart time management. Prioritise family, especially parents, and focus on maintaining good health and emotional equilibrium throughout your day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your sharp intuition fuels smart, timely decisions that advance both career and relationships. Innovation and fresh ideas inspire financial growth; trust your instincts to lead every opportunity toward success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Health improves as vitality returns. Work demands multitasking, so prioritise wisely to stay productive. Efficient time management keeps stress low and ensures steady progress through today's dynamic responsibilities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Important choices arise, particularly in relationships and property matters. Romantic connections strengthen, and investments in real estate look favourable. Trust your instincts.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

A demanding day brings heavy responsibilities at home and work. Stay organised and attentive; your partner and children need care. Patience ensures emotional harmony and successful completion of all tasks.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Energy and clarity empower you to chase long-term goals. Financial conditions improve steadily while personal challenges ease. Use this momentum to plan ahead and secure your evolving ambitions confidently.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Re-evaluate finances; returns from past investments bring satisfaction. Take time off to recharge. Romantic bonds deepen, and singles attract meaningful partners through calm confidence and emotional authenticity.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

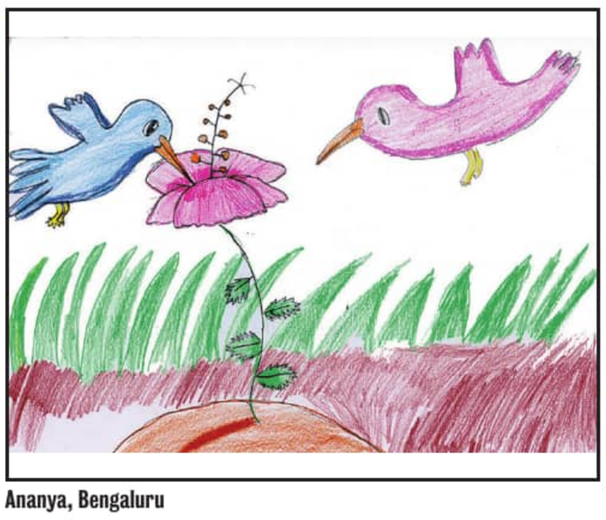
Optimism and good health define your day. Reflect on fiveyear goals and act intentionally. Align personal passions with professional plans to build strong, fulfilling, and prosperous foundations for the future.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

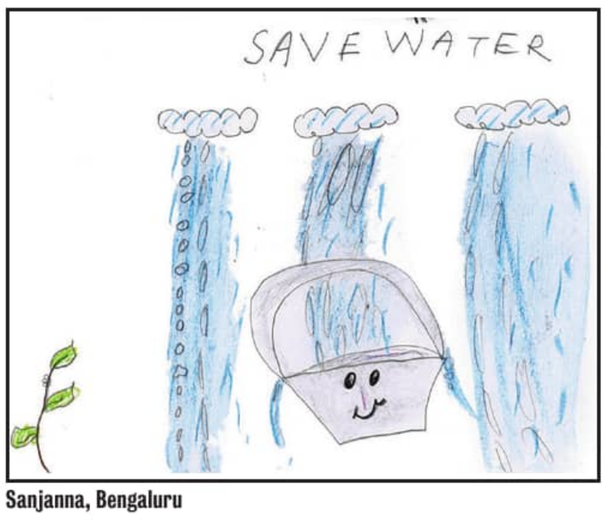
Social energy surrounds you; networking brings appreciation and opportunity. Friends and colleagues uplift you. Your partner may need extra affection. This is a favourable time for new investments.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ananya, Bengaluru



Sanjanna, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$\sqrt[3]{[(5 \times 8+41) / (12-3 \times 3)] \times \sqrt{[(12+4+1)]}} =$
$\sqrt[3]{[81/3] \times \sqrt{[3+1]}}$
$\sqrt[3]{27 \times \sqrt{4}} = 6$

BULL'S EYE

FAINTLY, flay, flinty, inlay, litany, nifty, tiny

RIDDLER

1. Olive -> Live,
2. Ozone -> Zone

FAST FIVE

R	I	C	E	S
A	R	I	S	E
S	T	R	A	W
E	N	U	R	E
W	O	O	E	R

STRIKE OUT

G	R	I	N	N	E	D		E	T	A	P	E		
N		N	E		I	N	T	O	P		Y			
A	B	S	C	E	S	S		A	P	T	E	R		
S		E		D		A			A		I			
H	I	R	E	S		R	H	I	Z	O	M	E		
	E		T		I	M	A	M		A				
D	A	S	H	E	D		C	A	B	A	L	A		
	T		D	E	S	K			R		N			
R	E	D	C	O	A	T		L	Y	R	I	C		
A		H		A		I		A		A		I		
L	O	T	U	S		B	A	L	A	N	C	E		
E		I	M	P	E	L		L		G		N		
S	O	A	P	Y		E	L	E	M	E	N	T		

QUICK

												K		
												O		
T	H	I	N	K	B	I	G		S	H	I	P		
		S		N		A		I			A			
V	A	N	I	S	H		R	I	V	E	T	S		
			K		B	O	B				T			
A	M	U	S	E			A	S	N	A	G			
		A				T	D	S			U			
B	R	O	G	U	E		E	N	D	U	E	S		
		U		L		T		N		M				
S	P	U	R		O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L		
V		H		I		N		H		L				
V	E	S	U	V	I	U	S					B		

MENSA PUZZLE

2. In each square, the sum of the 3 outer numbers divided by the central number always equals 6.

QUOTE UNCODE

Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

SUDOKU

8	9	5	7	1	2	6	4	3
2	1	4	6	3	5	9	8	7
3	6	7	9	4	8	2	5	1
4	8	1	3	6	7	5	2	9
9	5	3	8	2	1	4	7	6
7	2	6	4	5	9	1	3	8
6	3	9	2	7	4	8	1	5
5	4	8	1	9	3	7	6	2
1	7	2	5	8	6	3	9	4

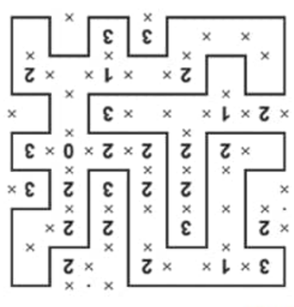
ALPHA TRIANGLE

U, Ru, Rue, Surre, Purse, Rupees, Perpuses.

GO FIGURE

Easy
6 + 2 + 1 + 7 = 16
Medium
5 x 6 - 2 + 6 = 34
Hard
5 - 4 + 9 x 6 = 60

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Rana Daggubati quizzed

Actor Rana Daggubati on Saturday appeared before the SIT in Telangana in connection with a case related to alleged promotion of an online betting app, police said

Right place at the right time

Deepika says she waited until she felt confident to step into tinsel town

Before Deepika Padukone became a breakout star with her debut in the film 'Om Shanti Om', the actress had already created a strong impact as a model and had worked in South cinema.

Despite several film offers, she did not rush into Bollywood. Instead, she waited until she felt confident about taking that step. This early phase of her journey offers an interesting look at a young newcomer who trusted timing over opportunity.

In a recent conversation with Harper's Bazaar, Padukone said the spotlight reached her sooner than expected. She shared that her modeling career lasted only two years but was intense enough for people to remember her as a model even today. She said, "Honestly, it all happened so quickly that sometimes it feels like a blur. Technically, I modelled for only two years, and by then the film industry had already started reaching out."

Padukone explained that she was so busy working on runway shows, print shoots, and television commercials that she barely had time to pause. She added, "Before I knew it, I was on a film set, and I didn't even have time to process it. When I look back, I think it all unfolded at the right time."

According to the actress, many producers and directors were interested in signing her even during her modeling days. However, she felt she needed more stability before entering films. She said, "A lot of producers and directors were pursuing me for movies. But I wasn't ready for it."

Deepika mentioned that she had just stepped into the world of glamour and wanted time to understand it before transitioning to movies. She added, "The movies could have happened almost immediately, but I was politely saying I wasn't ready. I'm still grateful for those opportunities. The timing of 'Om Shanti Om' felt right." **—ETimes**

Bijapur chronicles

Udaala is Amol Patil's debut as a director, but he manages to transport audiences to Bijapur with shots at beautiful locations, including the Gol Gumbaz and Saat Kabar (60 tombs). The dialogues laced with Bijapur diction also give it a humorous take. Cinematographer Shivashankar Noorambada has done a fantastic job. Music by Chetan Sosca is lilting.

Udaala
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Amol Patil
- **ACTORS** Prithvi Shamanur, Hrithika Srinivas, Bala Rajwadi, Biradar, Vadiraj Babaladi, Govinde Gowda
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 162 minutes

The movie begins with Prakash aka Pakkya (Prithvi Shamanur) meeting a beautiful girl at a desert in a dream. Later, he gets a phone call from his friend and rushes to Gol Gumbaz to guide two foreign tourists. The audiences are told that Pakkya is not only a guide but also owns an auto and also works as a saree draper. He happens to meet his dream girl Pinky Patil (Hrithika Srinivas), a college student. He also joins the same college by submitting a fake certificate. Pakkya and Pinky agree to teach a lesson to Marthan Saate's (Bala Rajwadi) car driver but end up injuring Saate. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Pakkya and Pinky.

The movie's runtime is its shortcoming. Had the director reduced the runtime by 20 minutes, it would have been a great relief for the audiences. Prithvi Shamanur makes a comeback after a gap of two years. He has improved his dancing skills. Hrithika Srinivas not only looks like Ileana but also seems to be imitating her. Bala Rajwadi is convincing as a villain with a kind heart. Biradar has nothing to do in this movie except yelling at others. The climax indicates a sequel to this movie.

All in all, it is worth a watch for youth, especially those who want to experience the beauty of Bijapur. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

An anthology of love, curse, and reincarnation

Director Simple Suni known for making movies with simple stories has proved his mettle once again by handling the megaphone with aplomb. He narrates four stories that highlight love, curse, and reincarnation in this film. The director begins the film on a simple note but it gains momentum within a few minutes. He tells the story like a good history teacher would do in a classroom. He arranges a tour for audiences from Gonikoppa to heaven, Portugal, Coastal Karnataka, by ensuring crisp and engaging screenplay. Cinematography by William David and music by Judah Sandy add value to the movie.

Gatha Vaibhava
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Simple Suni
- **ACTORS** SS Dushyanth, Ashika Ranganath, Kishan Bilagali, Chiru S, Sudha Belawadi, Krishna Hebbale
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 142 minutes

The movie begins with Adhunika (Ashika Ranganath) creating a portrait of a stranger and sharing it on social media. Her name Adhunika means present time but she is connected with the past. Purathan (Dushyanth), a VFX technician, from Bengaluru comes to know about the portrait through his friend. He asks Adhunika to meet him but she asks him to meet her at Gonikoppal. He goes to Gonikoppal to meet her. She says that they are related in their previous birth. Adhunika says she was sister of Anamadheya and he was her lover Rakshasa and they were killed and also cursed by Anamadheya. But, Purathan narrates a story about them both being in Portugal and how they were connected in their previous birth. The other story is about Srinivasa aka Chennayya and Mangala. Watch the movie to know what happens to Adhunika and Purathan.

Simple Suni gives importance to the script. SS Dushyanth, who debuts as a hero with this movie, has proved his mettle. He gives a compelling performance in a sequence that highlights Kambala. Ashika is at her best. Krishna Hebbale, as an affectionate father and a psychologist, has acted well. The movie is worth a watch for family audiences. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Alicia remembers late mom's cameo

Alicia Silverstone, who is known for 'The Crush', 'The Wonder Years', 'Blast from the Past', among others, remembered her late mother's cameo appearance in the 1995 classic rom-com 'Clueless', reported People.

The 49-year-old actress spoke about how her mother briefly appeared in a scene in the film.

"There's a wedding scene -- my mom is in the back and she died, this night, six years ago," Silverstone said at the event. "So it's really lovely to have, because I love her and miss her and so it was very moving to see that moment and go like, 'Oh my god, there's my mommy,' and tonight's the night. Tonight's the night she passed. So, that's very nice," as quoted by People.

Silverstone continued, "She'd be really happy that this was happening."

Silverstone talked about her mom in a blog post from 2021, mentioning, "My mother lived lightly on the earth, she planted seeds in me, she loved animals, and she taught me to never be materialistic or waste anything."

In April, Silverstone celebrated the announcement of an upcoming Clueless TV project on an Instagram post. She recently gave an update on Peacock's upcoming 'Clueless' TV series, in which she will reprise her role as Cher Horowitz.

Silverstone said, "Where we are at is that it's in very early stages. I never thought that that was something I would ever do because I wouldn't wanna mess up this thing that we all love so much. So we will do our very best to honor the original that we love and also bring something new to it." **—ANI**